Yours truly W. H. Brooker

TEXAS

AN EPITOME OF TEXAS HISTORY FROM THE FILIBUSTERING AND REVOLUTIONARY ERAS TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC. FROM MOST APPROVED SOURCES.

IN ONE VOLUME

ELABORATELY ILLUSTRATED

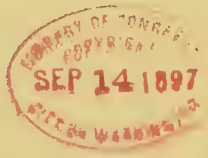
BY

WILLIAM H. BROOKER

"Thermopylae had her messengers of defeat; the Alamo had none."—*Anon.*

"The good that men do lives after them. The evil is oft interred with their bones."—*Shakespeare.*

Now let loose the dogs of war,
Let pandemonium reign,
Posterity will mark the spot
Where such heroes are slain.



COLUMBUS, OHIO
PRESS OF NITSCHKE BROTHERS
1897

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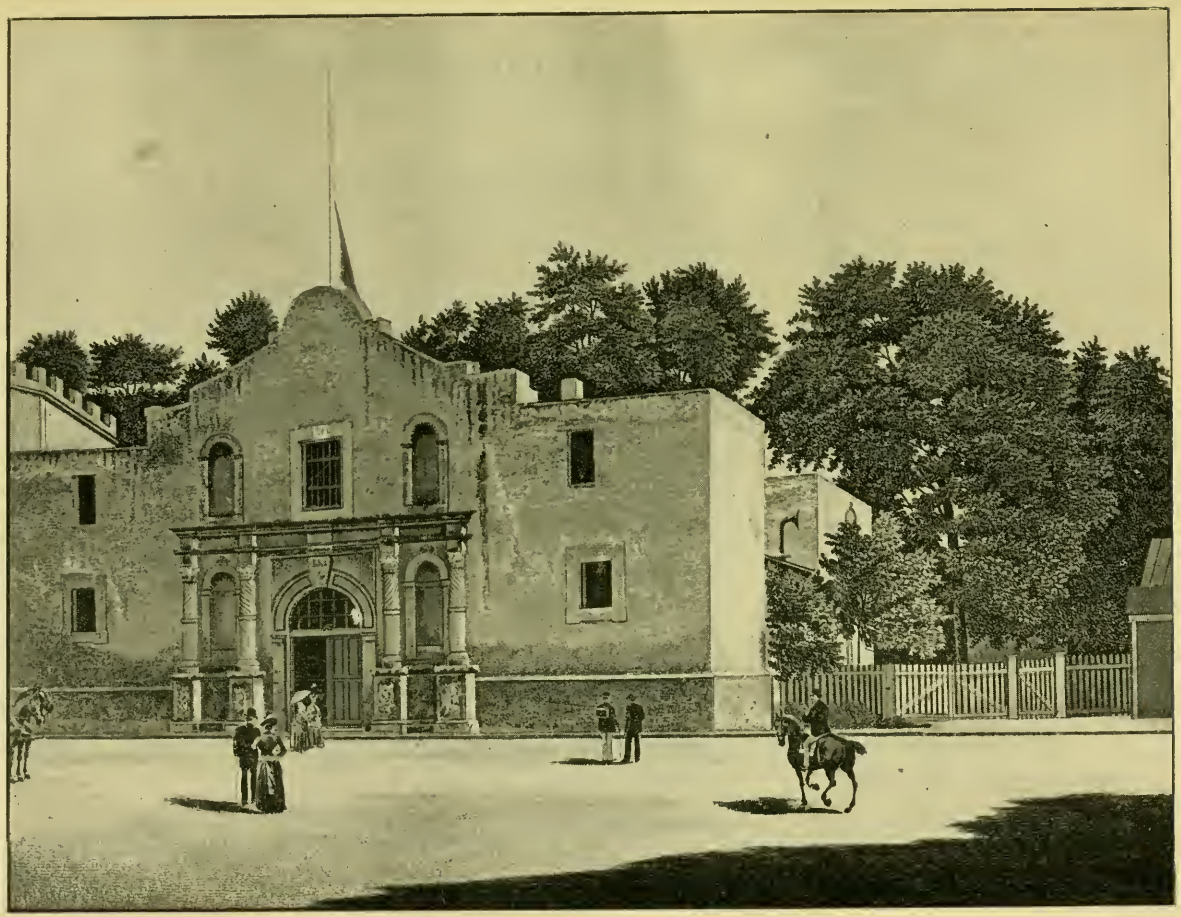
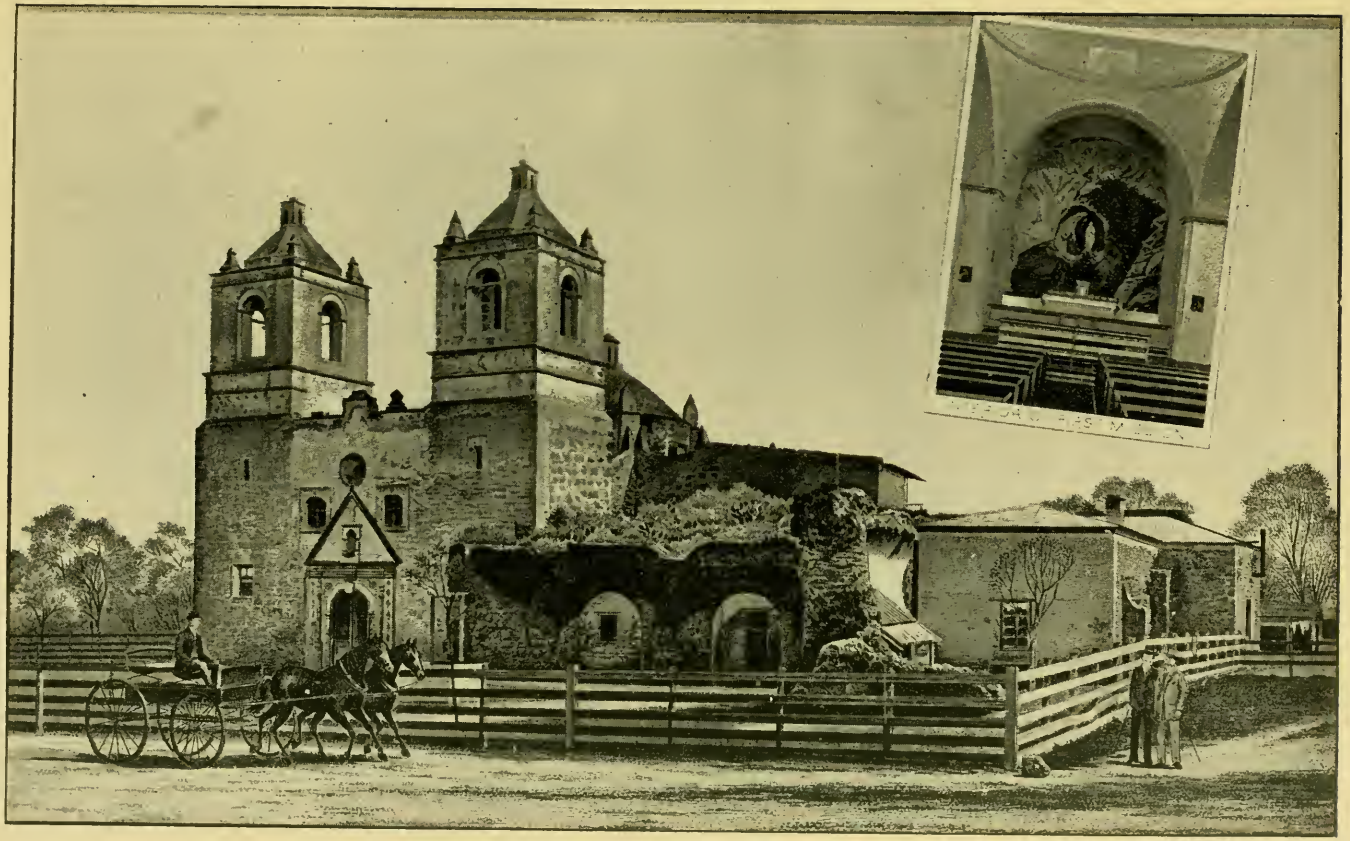


THE ALAMO. BUILT 1718.

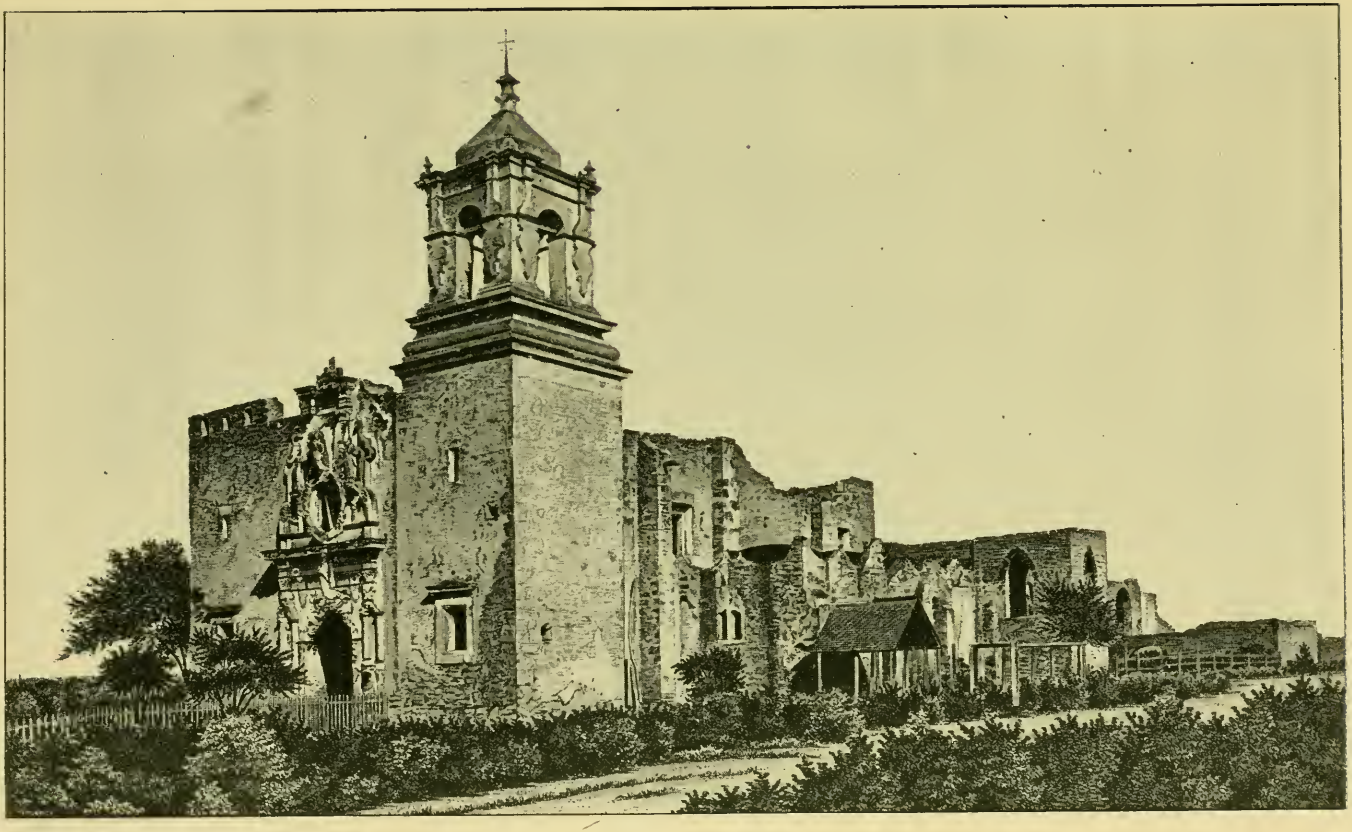
"Thermopylae had her messengers of defeat; the Alamo had none."

To

The memory of the brave defenders of the Alamo and Goliad, to every patriot who supported arms in behalf of the Independence of Texas, from every land and clime, and their posterity over the broad domain; in token of the heroic deeds of daring in the hours of peril, this volume is respectfully and tenderly inscribed by the author.



FIRST MISSION "LA CONCEPCION." BUILT 1731.

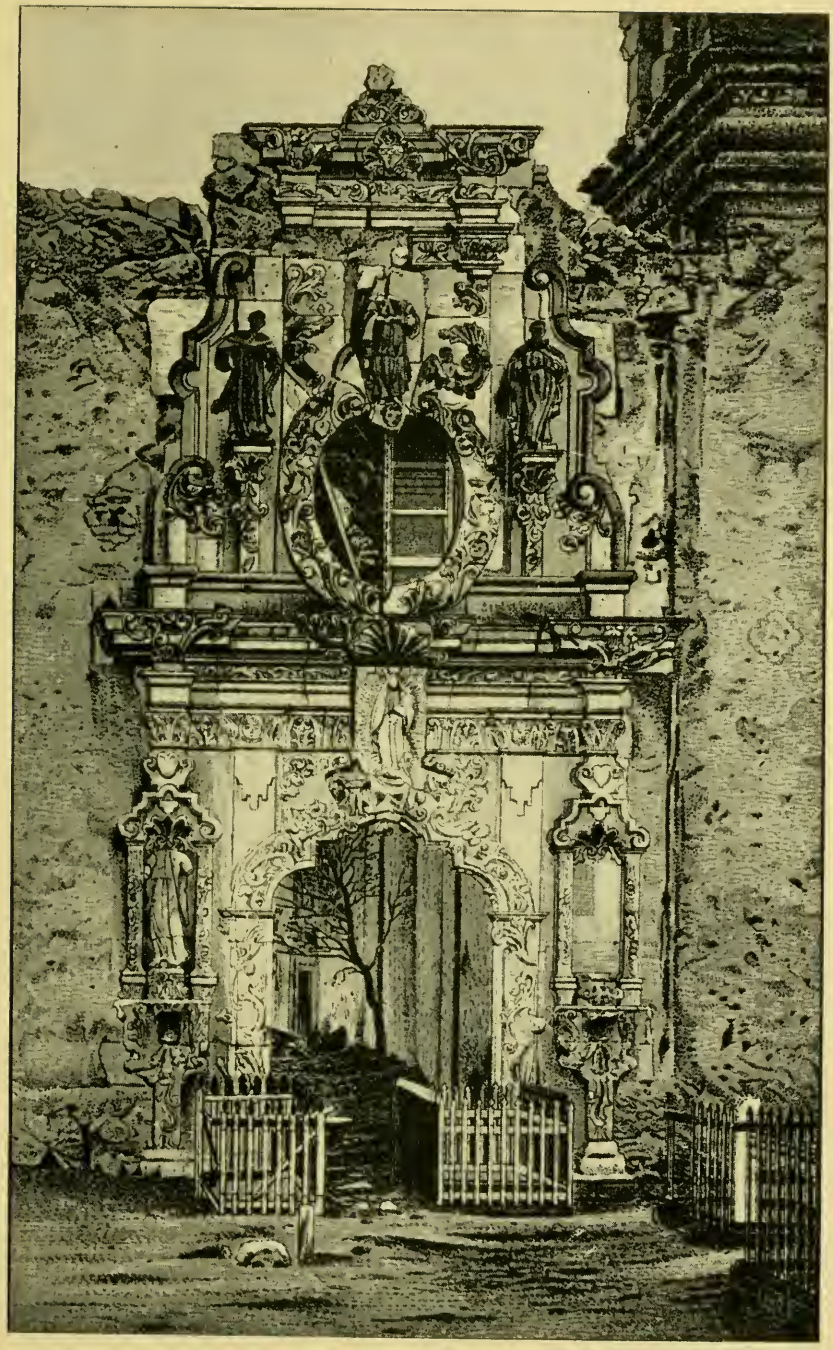


SECOND MISSION "SAN JOSÉ." BUILT 1718.

PREFATORY STATEMENT.

The hastily conceived ideas which brought out this work, perhaps, would need no apologies for errors in the results, if the circumstances of the production were understood by the reader. This is a recital, in the main, of the chivalrous deeds of those who gave to Texas, Independence and her vast domain, during the revolutionary period of the country, being an epitome of those thrilling times and scenes of carnage and woe. Many data of civil history are omitted to give litheness to the book, making it truly a "Souvenir" volume, which was the first aim of the author.

San Antonio, Texas, July 4, 1897.



PORTAL OF MISSION SAN JOSÉ.

CHAPTER I.

Thoughts on the First Settlers of Mexico—The Taltecs—Mound Builders—The Aztecs—Flight of the Taltecs—Their Fate—Rise and Fall of The Aztecs—Their Customs and Worship—The Advent of the Spaniard—The Conquest—The Cavaliers—The Mexican—The Crusade of the Jesuite Fathers—The Missions, Their Use and Decay—Description.

When the achievements and valor of a people are recorded in any great struggle, against contending forces, a history of the foe should be given to add luster to the cause, for on the contract of valor is glory won, and the conquest of arms made chivalrous.

In speaking of these things, only an epitome of such history can here be given. We are taught that Adam was the first man, and all the nations of the earth were peopled from the Ark of Noah, after the flood.

We are constrained to take these statements as true, though often met in the pathway of science, given by geologists and archaeologists with contrary views; yet all assertion needs proof, and as the first stands on a plane of veracity endowed by prophets and ages, we cannot cavil the justness of their sayings.

When the great navigator set sail in search of the new world more than four centuries ago, he little divined that he would find strange people when his vessels might land. But the great mariner was astonished when confronted with multitudes of human beings engaged in all the arts of government, agriculture, fine arts and legerdemain, met his gaze. The warrior was panoplied in grand array.

Two strange people had met; one could give no account of the other's origin. To believe one was supernatural was easy to conceive by the more rustic class; while the other was in wonders bound, on researches bent. Walled cities were beheld with great citadels, and in them worshipped millions of souls at a shrine they believed divine; in a manner solemn to the law's demand; in a custom hideous and barbaric in the extreme.

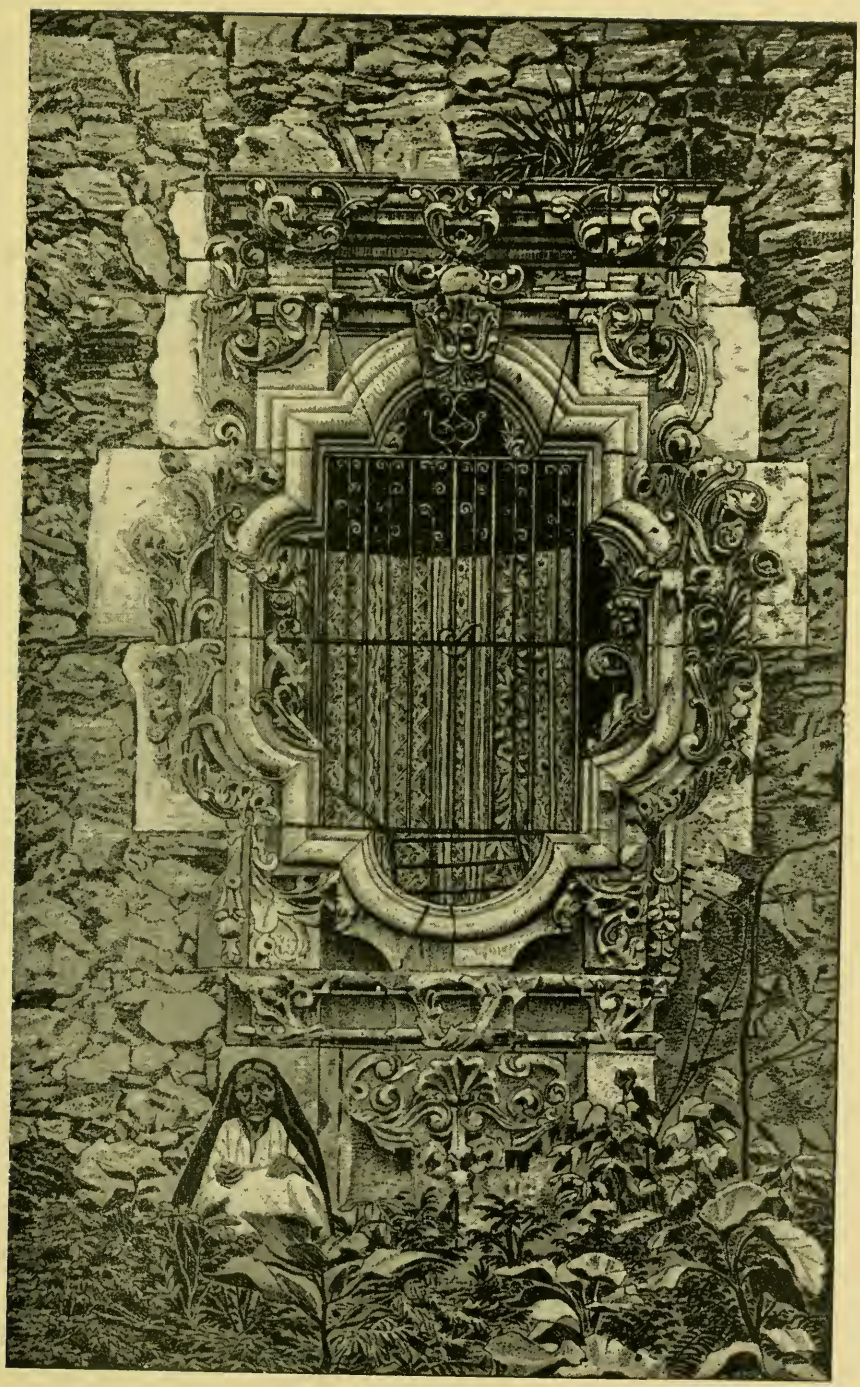
Here the Temples to the Sun were found, in which the multitudes worshipped the god of day and offered human sacrifices to appease his burning zeal, till more than three millions of human lives were slaughtered on the altar of their god to sooth his wanton wrath.

From whence did the worshippers come?

No mortal has ever answered. The archaeologist has been lost in the researches, and no answer comes from his feeble plodding.

The philosopher pales before the realm of thought, and lets the dark ages roll over his reverie with becoming silence; yet man was made in the image of his Creator, and only differs from man "as one star differeth from another in glory."

Man everywhere and at all times has the same propensities; he loves and hates; he builds and destroys; he wars on his fellowman till well nigh the ground has been drenched in human blood and the earth made a catacomb. We are told that the Taltecs were the first to settle the beautiful valleys of Central Mexico, and cultivated the fertile lands therein many centuries before the landing of Columbus on the shores of the new world; and builded the citadels and performed the functions of government; and became a great and warlike people. But the history of their origin is as opaque as the moon-stone which once adorned their temples. Even before the Taltec made his intrepid march to the land of the dazzling sun, the hills and cliffs were tenanted by a race of cliff dwellers with which the archaeologist and historian can only dwell in theory. At any rate, he builded



WINDOW OF MISSION SAN JOSÉ.

his home with an object of self-preservation, "the first law of nature," against marauding man. From what age in antiquity he sprung we are left to conjecture; or whether from primeval man, is not known. The relics of his once happy home are to be be found in lower California, throughout Western and Central Mexico.

His origin, habits and arts belong to the unknown quantity in the mathematical problem of man. Perhaps long before the Ayrian gave his ciphers to the Egyptian school boy, or long anterior to the time when the wolf gave nurse to the two foundlings on the Tiber, who in after years played pantomime warriors over the miniature walls of a still more diminutive Rome, the warlike races were enjoying their supremacy in the Occident, and masters of all the lands from the mountains to the sea. Following the receding tide of the cave dwellers, we watch the advancing steps of the Taltecs, in the great cities that were planned and built, into the haunts of commerce and agriculture, till the realm of its domain was regal in all of its proportions. Alas! Babylon had its season of freshness, prosperity and decay. The mighty Thebes and Memphis, with their hundred gates, went down before the advancing steps of time—the despoiler of all greatness. So with the Taltecs. Their sun had risen in prosperity, went to its zenith in glory, and set behind a waning shore. "How the mighty have fallen!" "Oh, Tempora! Oh, Mores." The gods seem to have frowned on their destinies; and so passeth the glory of the world.

Another cloud rises over the distant plains; a host comes with mighty tread and glittering array; the march of armies with a multitude. Surely it is not some wandering tribe from Moses and Aaron crossing the Red Sea, nor the clamor of the murmuring Israelites fleeing from the hosts of an Irate Pharaoh?*

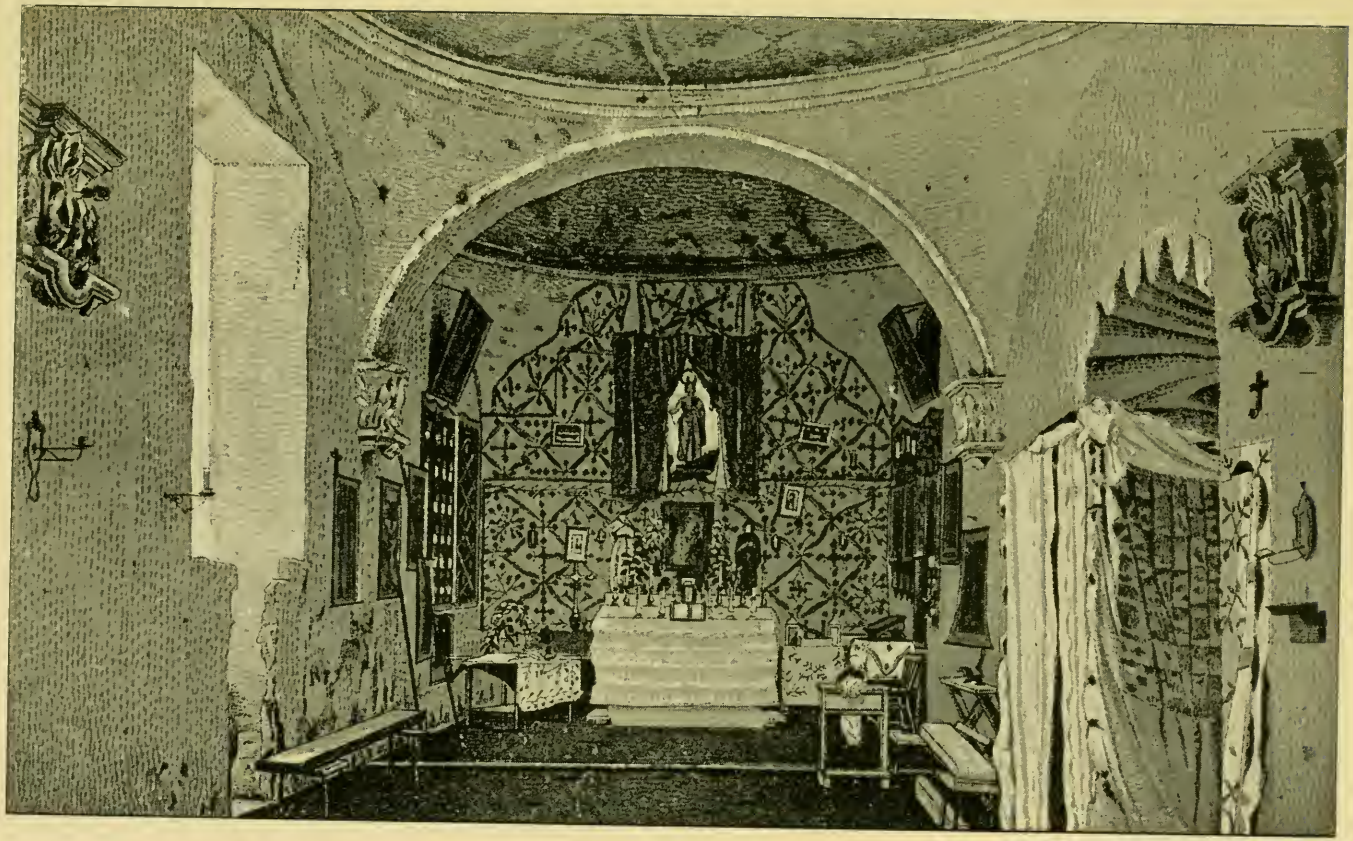
* It is a remarkable fact that the features, physiognomy and classic mould of the inhabitants of Guadalajara, Mexico, are of similar type to the Jewish race, where found on the globe.

The advance goes on, the clash of helmets come, the spear puts to route the Taltec kings, who, fleeing southward, go into the rich lands of Central America,where they erect towns, build cities and place their helmets and coat of arms on immortal stone; and carve their hieroglyphics thereon, and lie down and die, a totally extinct nation, a lost tribe, and forgotten race.

But the stones and monuments at Uxmal and Pelanque tell the story where once they rested in their flight from the Aztecs. From whence the Aztec came, no historian has ever told; no archaeologist divined the trace of his origin. Yet we are told he came from the "North," and in his onward march annihilated the cliff dwellers and put to flight the still more warlike Taltecs. When victory perched on their advancing banners, and the rich conquest came under absolute domain, they began a higher state of agriculture, became workers in iron and copper, erected great walled cities with flaming citadels, crowned their bliss in magnificent temples to the sun. Fawning, at the feet of kings, built the Halls for the Montezumas, and crowned them supreme rulers of the realm. Thus they lavished their reign in luxury, crowning their kings with gold and capping the towers of their temples with precious stones. They were given up to worship and debauchery till the conquering hero came:—

The intrepid Spaniards, under the leadership of Cortez and Pizzaro, covered the land of the Aztec kings under a despotic conquest, stripping the Inchas of all their gold and regal wealth, driving the kings from power, destroying their vast halls and temples, annihilating the custom of sun worship; and hoisting over the citadels the cross of the Saviour of man, in the name of the King of Spain, and began the conquest of Mexico.

About this time in the centuries there occurred a war in England known as "the war of the roses." In that great and sanguinary conflict the followers of the vanquished house of Stuarts fled into Spain. The fresh news of such rich conquests in the "New World" caused many of the fleeing cavaliers to



INTERIOR OF MISSION SAN JOSÉ.

seek refuge in the land of the Montezumas, and make their abode there, intermingling their race with the Aztec blood, engrafted in the new land a new race and a new religion; and thus the Aztec became a worshipper under the cross, under the laws, rules and customs of Castile. And thus the Aztec was in a manner metamorphosed into a Mexican, and under his rule the dynasties of Mexico have had their origin and perturbed existence, the government often changing as many as three times a year.* Under this new order of things, the Mexican began his march under Spanish leadership to the conquest of the Indian tribes on the north, who were mound builders, and totally distinct from other tribal races that inhabited the Western Hemisphere, with different modes of life, warfare and worship. This movement was headed by the San Friscan friars and Jesuit "fathers," who, with the cross in one hand, the sword in the other, carried the Bible of the "Holy Jesus," and planted it on the banks of every stream of running water from the citadel of New Spain to the flowing fountains of the clear stream, which they called after one of the departed saints, San Antonio; and there, along this most beautiful stream, meandering amid live oaks and vernal growth, erected their monasteries and began the conquest of the wandering Indian tribes by educating them under the mysteries of the cross and Holy See. In the latter part of the sixteenth century, these same monkish "fathers" began erecting a series of "missions" or monasteries, which were fashioned after a plan of ancient architecture, on the plane of the Roman Cross. The construction of these ancient missions was out of stone and mortar; massive walls more than four feet thick, barricaded doors and windows to resist any ordinary attack from outside foes. Each mission was provided with dark chambers, in which the "fathers" kept the lamps burning eternal, and in which

* Of the 10,000,000 of inhabitants in Mexico, about 1,000,000 are Spanish blood; about 2,500,000 mixed with the Aztec race. The balance are of pure Aztec and other Indian tribes.

the recalcitrant Indian paid the penalties for disobedience to ecclesiastic laws, and paid penance for "not paying tithes." The first one of these missions toward the source of the San Antonio river is the "Alamo" (or popular church), a frowning mass of stone which has withstood the ravages of time and battering shells of contending foes, and stands out to-day the silent monument, grim, gloomy and peculiar, of all the horrors that were ever committed there. Perhaps the "Te Deum" have a reverberating sound in the ears of the Most High, to atone for some acts of violence perpetrated in its sacred precincts. A short description of this old mission may not be out of place here, as basic scenery to the grand drama performed there later on, and more fully described in another chapter.

The walls are built of heavy stone and mortar, more than four feet thick, on the plan of the Roman Cross, 112 feet long and 65 feet front; with front door arched, six feet wide, seven feet high, the only door in the building opening outwards. The windows are few, small and frowning, with heavy iron grating as the only pretext for shades. Dirt floor. Archway across the main auditorium near front door, over which a gallery was made for the choir in the times when priestly worship was had. The wall run up square, 24 feet; roof flat. The front mounts upward ten feet above main walls. The front is finished in heavy moulding pilasters, alcoves and workmanship of many designs. For ages the saints who died near by were buried beneath the floor, and lie there undisturbed. The rich valley of the San Antonio river gave much promise in the vast products of the fertile soil. When the settlements grew to great proportions, then the "fathers" began to prepare more room for the worshippers, and built another "mission" about one and a half miles below the "Alamo," near the banks of the river, and called it "La Purissima Concepcion," which mission is in a good state of preservation till this day, and in which the priests hold occasional services. Three miles further down the San Antonio

MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRAN. 3D MISSION.

river, on the west side, is the great San Jose Mission, the largest one ever constructed on the north side of the Rio Grande.

This mission received the greatest attention of the architects and the "priests," for now in the tumbled-down decay the frowning figures adorning the leaning front speak in mute cadences the grandeur of departed time, and seem to beg: "Why they are left to mouldering decay?" This mission has fast fallen into decay, and but one room in it used for any purpose—that kept locked by priests—in which they keep their relics of departed greatness.

Two miles further down, on the east bank of the San Antonio river, is Mission San Juan, with less pretentiousness, lest it be in rude decay. In this old chapel is kept in sacred memory the ancient Bible once used there; and the crucifix on the open pages—indicating some kindly care while time ravages. Then comes, a few miles further down the river, Mission "Espada," formerly of no great pretentions, now in total ruins.

The last mission on the beautiful river is at "La Bahia," Goliad, in which Colonel Fanner and his brave followers took refuge for defense, and when captured were so cruelly massacred by the Mexican soldiers by order of their commanders, which will be noted in another chapter.

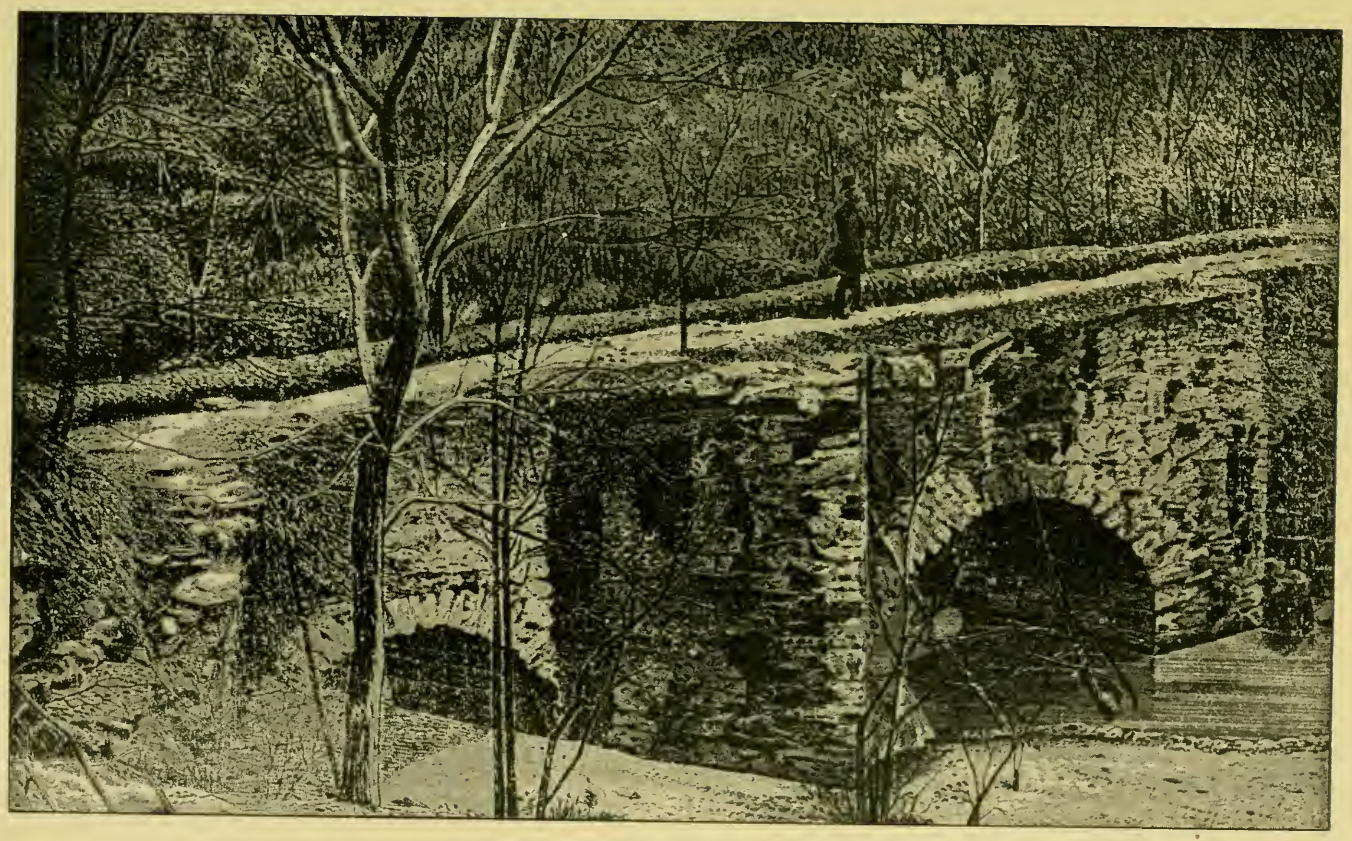
When one views these old missions of the monks, and sees what grandeur once marked the advance of the Roman Cross under pressure of the "priests" and Pope, he is left to exclaim: "O, Time! O, Ruins!" What vestal virgin watched over these in their purity and growth! What vandal hand sowed the seed of discord that brought on decay! Must all greatness so shortly endure? Will our giant edifices so soon be turned into the haunts of the sloth, the bat and the owl, while the angel of death and destruction flaps his sable wings over the grave of our dead greatness? When we sit amid the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, we can then well recall the mysteries which surround the blast of destruction in the land of the New World. If

priest be false his teachings are blighting. The God from Sinai and from the Cross may lead in mysterious ways!

Teach us, Oh, Thou of Sinai's fame,
The sweetness of Calvary's lays;
Hear him who Divinity would know,
Direct the plodding sinner in paths to go.

These old missions were built under the auspices of the Roman Pontificate, on lands granted to the bishops by the crown of Spain. These grants were for large tracts of land surrounding the missions, and non-revertible to the crown. So the old missions, with large amounts of land around them, belong to the Catholic Church, and owned and controlled by the bishops of the Diocese of Texas, on which no tax, either state or municipal, is laid or collected. The "Alamo" Mission was, by act of the Texas Legislature about twelve years ago, bought from the Catholic bishops of San Antonio, paying $20,000 therefor. Now the title to the same is in the State of Texas, and the care of the old mission is in charge of the mayor and city council of San Antonio, who appoint the custodian and look after the care of the premises.

The waters of the beautiful San Antonio river gush forth from the bowels of the earth about three miles northwest of the Alamo, and flow meandering through the beautiful city of San Antonio, forming many picturesque scenes. An old ditch conveying water from the head of the river, cut by the old Spaniards for irrigation in the labors and gardens below, runs just in rear of the Alamo building, touching the wall.



AQUEDUCT AT MISSION SAN JUAN.

CHAPTER II.

Brief History of Texas—Divided Into Eras—The Mission Era—Filibustering Era—The Era of Revolution—Cohahuila and Texas Colonization of Same—Government of Mexico Under First Emperor—Iturbide—Results—Then Under Constitution of 1824—Revolutions in Mexico—Rise of Santa Anna, His Dictatorship—Stephen F. Austin, His Colonization and Career in Texas—The Invasion of Texas by Armed Mexican Soldiers—The Resistance of the Colonists—Conflicts With Soldiers—Bowie and His Brother—The Struggle at the Siege of San Antonio de Bexar—Death of Milam—Surrender of Cos—Evacuation of Texas by Mexican Forces.

Under the rule of the Spanish crown for two centuries and more, the Mexican people had taken on a superior order of civilization to what their immediate ancestry possessed. We might class Texas under the following heads in brief: Era of discovery when De Long first touched her shores, 1685, era of missions, 1690-1789; era of filibusterers, 1789-1821; era of colonization, 1821-1836; era of revolution, 1821-1836, era of Republic, 1836-1845; era of state, 1845-date. Much can be said of Texas under each headline here marked out. We will be pardoned for dealing with the principal ones under the revolutionary period, leaving the reader to follow up other researches as inclination leads, but a mere reference to other times may not be out of place. In the mission era among the Mexicans, literature and the arts were pursued by many of the wealthy classes. Mining had taken an advanced step among the nations. The military incentive of the leaders had advanced with the crowned heads of Europe, and while the government changed

rulers often, it rarely ever changed in form from a military despotism.

The Bull of Pope Alexander VI, which bestowed on Ferdinand and Isabella all the countries which they might discover west of a given latitude, was the authority on which the Spanish monarchs claimed the most valuable portion of the American continent as their personal property. From the crown proceeded all grants of land, and if they failed from any cause, to the crown they again reverted. As monarch of the Indies, the king was unchecked in his reign. The Catholic church, always a factor in political formulas of government, held powerful sway at the courts of Catholic Europe. In domineering the sway over the Western Continent, the dogmas of the priests were translated into the sign of authority, and the Divine wrath was invoked on all who disobeyed and church anathemas were hurled at those who followed after strange doctrines. The priests and friars had kept up the clan of the crown in the old missions established for a hundred years; and kept installed in the faith the hordes of Indians which had been taught at the altar. But with all the wealth of the crown, the rigid discipline of the monks, the "Te Deum" was hushed in the old missions. Their walls were given to decay, and silence of oblivion began its eternal reign among the ruins of departed greatness.

For more than 250 years the land had been under the Spanish yoke. All interests had to obey the mandates of the king.

When Napoleon led his victorious legions into Spain in 1810, and led captive the king and royal household, the spirit of unrest in the Western land began, and the tyranny of the Spanish viceroys in New Spain led the people on to revolt. The cause of the oppressed was fostered by Don Miguel Hidalgo Castilla, who was the rectoral cura of Dolores, a town in the intendency of Guanajuato, who led his parishioners in the revolt against Vanegas, the viceroy of Spain. In September, 1810, he

took the field for "the defense of religion and the redress of wrongs."

His first attempt at arms was successful. On the 29th of September he captured the city of Guanajuato, containing 80,000 inhabitants, with public funds amounting to over five million dollars. Thus equipped with munitions and flushed with success, Hidalgo started his march to the city of Mexico.

Halting between two opinions on his way, and not obeying the request of his military leader, Allende, who urged the forced march into the city, he beat a sudden and hasty retreat, and was finally captured and carried to Chihuahua and shot, with all the companions of his flight. Thus perished in 1811 the first Mexican revolutionary leader.

In these struggles Hidalgo and his followers appealed to the worst passions of their Indian confederates, who committed the most atrocious excesses, slaughtering every European Spaniard that fell into their hands, and frequently not sparing the natives. And often the black flag of annihilation was hoisted over the vaulting legions of success. It is said that Calleja, the Spanish commander, eclipsed Hidalgo in the horrors of massacre. To avoid the waste of ammunition he cut the throats of the defenseless populace of Guanajuato, until the principal fountain of the city literally overflowed with blood. These successive ebbs and flows of revolution were carried on energetically for a period, with little abating in the horrors of war till the war between America and Great Britain in 1812. When in the latter part of that year Don Jose Alvarez de Toledo, who had been a member of the Spanish cortes from Mexico visited the United States, and in conjunction with Don Bernardo Guttierez, then at Washington in the capacity of agent from the Mexican revolutionary authorities, devised a plan for invading the eastern internal provinces of New Spain, by the aid of American auxiliaries.

The ostensible command was given to Guttierez, as a Mexican, but the real command of the enterprise was entrusted to Colonel Magee, who for the purpose of undertaking it, resigned his commission in the United States army. Amnog the officers who joined the expedition were Kemper, Lockett, Perry and Ross, brave and ardent spirits to whom the excitement of military adventure was irresistibly attractive.

In a short time the invading force mustered about two hundred strong, all of them in the season of youthful daring, and mostly the sons of respectable families in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. Magee marched his band towards Texas, and was joined by others from all sections, till his forces numbered over five hundred determined men. In their first encounter with the Mexican troops at Nacogdoches, Texas, the Mexicans fled at the first well-directed fire.

Magee, flushed with his success, pressed on to La Bahia, or Goliad, and occupied it without resistance on the 1st of November, 1812. In the meantime Magee died, and the command fell on Kemper, who on the 10th of July following, led his followers against the besieging Mexicans, who outnumbered Kemper's forces five to one, and after several hours' hard contest in the open field the Mexicans fled, leaving between three and four hundred of their men on the field dead. The Americans lost two killed and thirty wounded. The Mexicans then beat a hasty retreat to the Salado, en route to San Antonio de Bexar, where the Mexicans were reinforced by 1200 men under Salcedo, with six pieces of artillery. The contest was a fierce and decisive one. Select riflemen under Lockett shot down the Mexican artillerists and seized the cannon, while Kemper on the right and Ross on the left soon put the enemy to rout with a loss of 400 killed, a greater number wounded and seventy-five taken prisoners. The loss to the Americans were nine killed and thirty-five wounded. Forty-five hundred head of horses were captured by the Americans.

Kemper pressed forward, and on the 1st of April, 1813, entered San Antonio de Bexar and captured the whole Mexican force, amounting to eight hundred men. Guttierez was elected the Governor of Bexar, assisted by a council of thirteen. This tribunal proceeded to try by court martial the fourteen chiefs who commanded in the Mexican army, and condemned them to death and had them secretly executed; and for this abhorrent crime against civilized warfare, Colonel Kemper and many of his best men abandoned the service. In 1821, February 24, Dan Augustin Iturbide, surrounded by his followers, was declared Emperor by them, which led the young Emperor into many acts of violence and excesses, and he was in a short time dethroned, and a cortes established for the government of the new realm torn from the Spanish king. In these times many adventurers from the United States had landed expeditions in the coast interior of Texas, and many daring exploits by land and sea caused their rendezvous on Galveston land to be termed the "Pirate Isle."

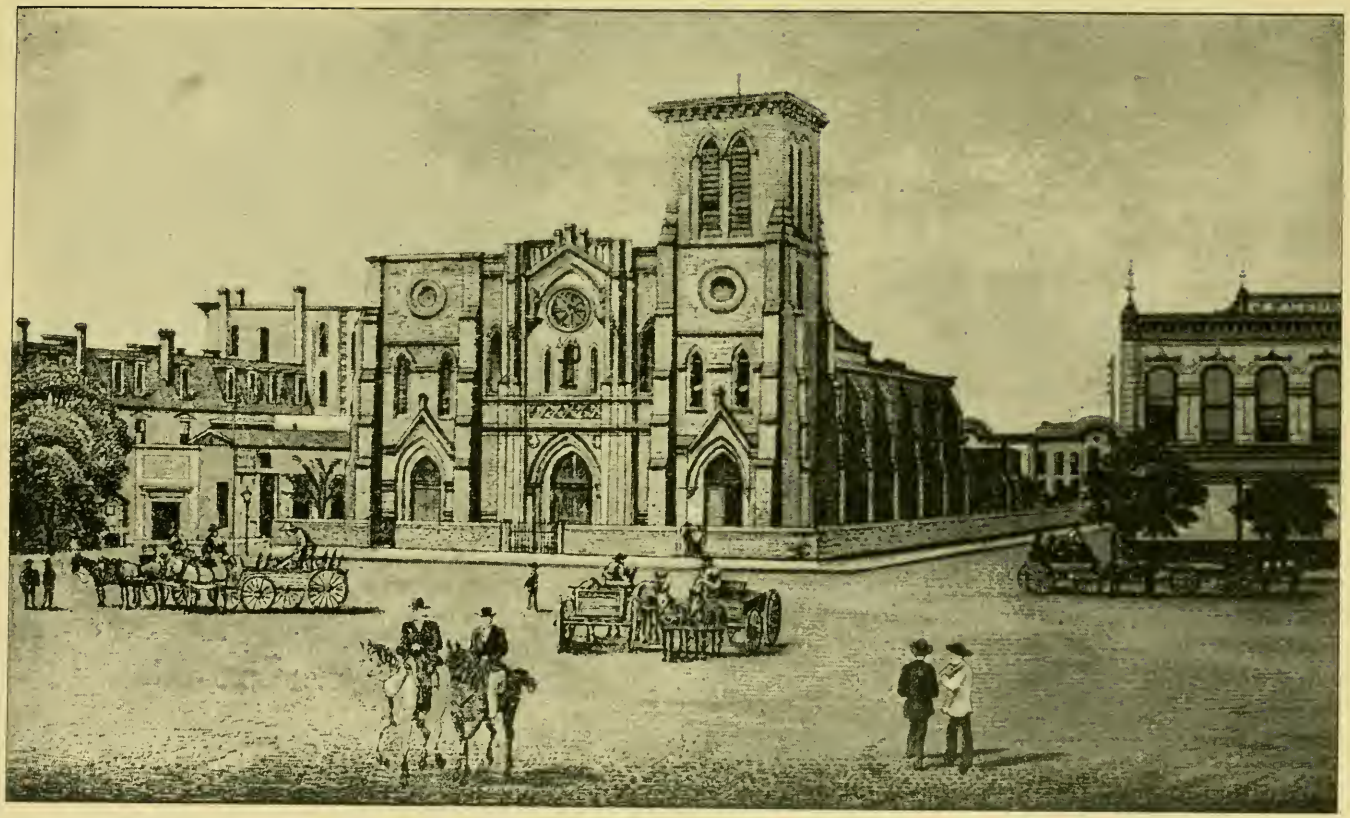
A recital of their exploits and the events of the times is very interesting to most readers. Prior to the reign of Iturbide, Moses Austin, a former merchant of New York, as empresario, had contracted with the Alcaldes and chief officers of the crown to colonize 300 families in the lower country of Texas, during the turmoil of the border and the unstable conditions of the transitory reigns of government, enduring many privations and hardships to establish his colony. Moses Austin, being of advanced years, died, and left the faithful carrying out of his contract to his son, Stephen F. Austin, who bravely came to the full discharge of his father's undertaking, and after much vexation and tribulation, he established the Austin colony on the Brazas river, between that stream and the Colorado, and filled it with many hardy denizens of the soil.

Under the constitution of the Mexican colonies, adopted October, 1824, in which each state was guaranteed a full repub-

lican form of government, Cohahuila and Texas were made a link state under the Mexican constitution, with the seat of government at Cohahulia, where all the legislative assemblies met and enacted laws. The government of the Mexican nation, under the laws established for colonization, provided "to protect the liberty, property and civil rights of all foreigners who profess the Roman Catholic religion, the established religion of the empire." * This same law was engrafted into the colonization laws of Cohahuila and Texas, March, 1825, and under this stringent law all the colonists coming to Texas had to submit to the rule of the church hierarchy, subject their children to be sprinkled by the priests, and pay tithes to the church. Whether they prayed or swore in silence is not recorded, but the priest was the spiritual adviser of the family as long as citizenship lasted. This was irksome to most of the colonists who came into Texas from the United States on the north with the Austin movement, besides large numbers of families who came in under other empresarios.

On May 21, 1834, by an act of the legislature of Cohahuila and Texas, this obnoxious law was repealed and protection was offered to the person and property of every settler, whatever may be his religion. Under the liberal colonization laws thus put into force, it was hard to repress the invincible tread of the Anglo-Saxon, whose march has always led on to victory, to prosperity—the elevation of man. The great influx of the colonists from the north with their independent ideas of republican form of government, and their form of worship under the Christian religion, was a menace to the Mexican population of Cohahuila on the west bank of the Rio Grande; that part of the state was more

* "When the news of La Salle's invasion reached Mexico, the viceroy, the Marquis de Monclova, held a council of war in obedience to a royal decree issued by Phillip II, enjoining the extermination of all foreigners who should dare penetrate the Gulf of Mexico." (Kenedy's His. Tex., Vol. 1, Page 27.)



CATHEDRAL DE SAN FERNANDO.

populous, and held all the important offices and a large majority of the legislature of the State of Cohahuila and Texas, and to further harass and disturb their neighbors, the newcomers in Texas, the government granted large tracts of land all along the southern border of Texas, encircling the boundaries of the American colonists. This wholesale granting the public domain away to unscrupulous empresarios, was an act which the colonists followers of the cross have either been tyrannical rulers, or fawning henchmen, to do their master's will. So those put in authority to govern the American colonists in Texas were tyrants with a bloody cast, and many acts towards the settlers by these military satraps became so offensive that open revolt was made by the colonists, and often clash of arms was resorted to for relief from tyranny.

In 1832 the farmers, armed to resist oppression, attacked the Mexican forces at Anahuac and Fort Velasco, under command of Colonel Piedras and Lieutenant Colonel Ugartechea, who held some of the colonists prisoners under the most flimsy pretexts. One of these was Wm. B. Travis, who afterwards perished in the Alamo. John Austin and W. C. Hall led the Texans in the various attacks, and liberated the prisoners. The attack on Fort Velasco on June 26, 1832, by 112 Texans under John Austin was a heroic struggle. Eleven Texans were killed and fifty-two wounded. Of the 125 Mexicans who formed the garrison, one-half were killed and seventeen wounded.

Mexico at this time was in the throes of revolution. Santa Anna was the coming light, though he professed avowed allegiance to the Constitution of Mexico, as published under the plan of Vera Cruz in the beginning of 1832, which was a movement on popular and constitutional grounds against Bustamente and his arbitrary encroachments. Pedraza, who had been ejected from the presidential chair and banished, was recalled. After a struggle of nearly a year, with much bloodshed, Bustamente,

depressed by defeat and the death of his favorite general, Teran, proposed an armistice to Santa Anna. Pedraza was to be received as constitutional president, by virtue of election of 1828, and the armies of both parties should unite in support of the Federal Constitution.

This compact the Mexican congress refused to ratify. The rival chiefs bid defiance to the congress and installed Pedraza as president on 26th December, 1832, who served out the remainder of his term, to 1st of April, 1833, when he was succeeded by General Santa Anna, who entered the capital on 15th of May, 1833.

The same centralist usurpation of the constitutional prerogative by Bustamente, was again recognized and established by the new administration.

When Santa Anna had intelligence of the Texans rising to arms in their own defense, he believed their intent was separation from Mexico, and dispatched against them Colonel Mexia, who sailed from the mouth of the Rio Grande on 14th July, 1833, with five vessels and 400 men.

Stephen F. Austin, then a representative from Texas in the state legislature of Cohahuila and Texas, embarked with Mexia. On 16th July the fleet anchored off the entrance of the Brazos.

Mexia sent an official letter to the Alcalde of the second department of Austin's colony (John Austin), who, in reply, detailed the late events in Texas, and the motives of the colonists in appealing to arms. He said: "We are farmers, and not soldiers, therefore desire that the military commandants shall not interfere with us at all. Since 1830 we have been pretty much governed militarily, and in such a despotic manner that we were finally driven to arms, to resist within their limits the military subalterns of the general government. We have not insulted the flag of our adopted country, as had been surmised from our first movements, but on the contrary, we have sustained its true dig-

nity, and attacked those who outraged it, by using it as a pretext for their encroachments upon the constitution and sovereignty of the State of Cohahuila and Texas, and as a cover for their baseness and personal crimes. * * * Therefore we attacked Fort Velasco on 26th of last month with 112 farmers, hastily collected, without discipline and badly armed, and after an obstinate and bloody engagement of eleven hours, it surrendered, on the terms expressed in the enclosed copy of the capitulation, every article of which has been strictly complied with on our part, besides furnishing the provisions needed for the troops."

A strong feeling was now impressed upon many of the American colonists that without the possession of full and independent powers of local government, their social progress must be grievously retarded, and their rights exposed to constant invasion from contending factions and their ambitious chiefs.

So, with matters in view, a convention of the people was called to meet at San Filipe de Austin in October, 1832, for the purpose of memorializing the supreme government against invidious laws, and the harsh rules of the military chiefs, and hence the people desired a constitution for Texas, an independent member of the Mexican Federation, but entirely severed from Cohahuila.

Securing to themselves the right of trial by jury and the privilege of "Habeas Corpus," a constitution embodying these matters was framed and adopted, with a petition to the general government expressive of these sentiments, and a desire to be free and independent of Cohahuila and all entangling alliances.

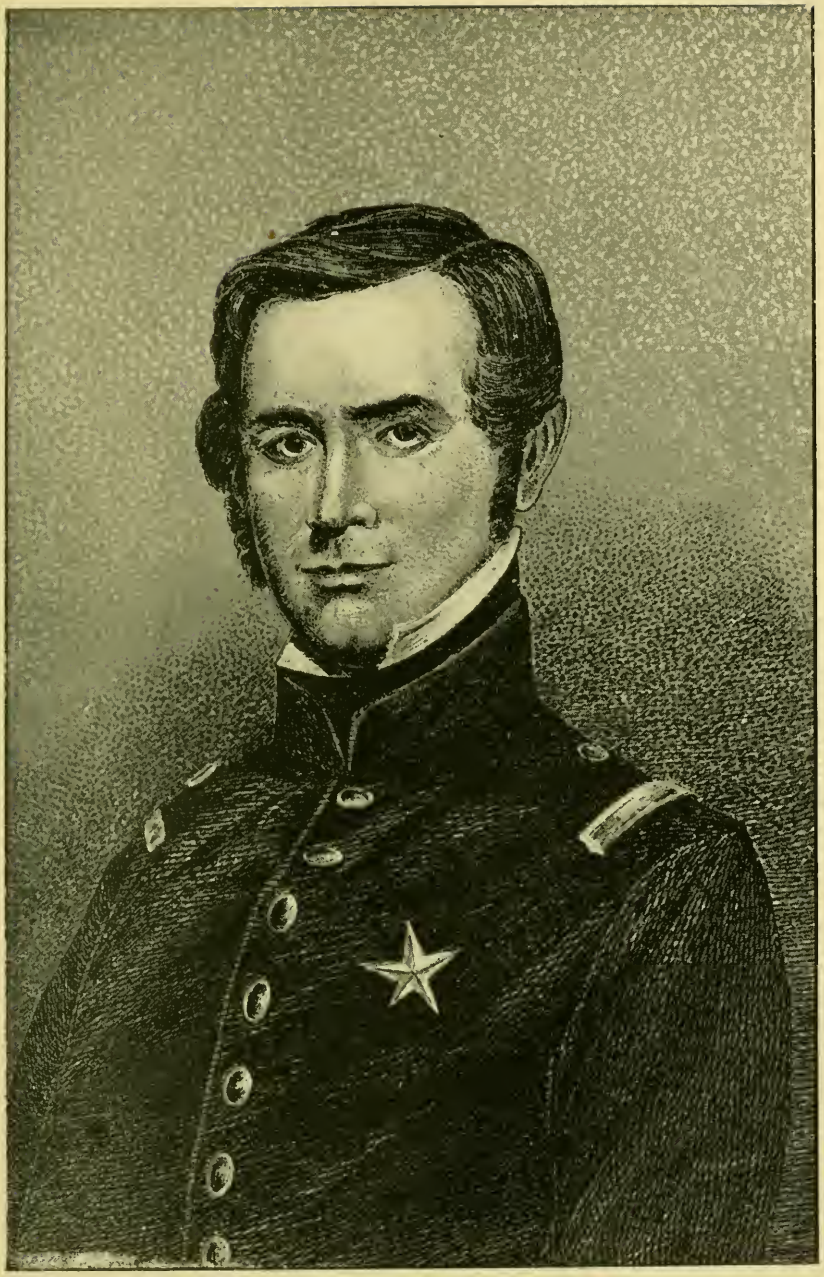
The petition was quite lengthy, but read in part as follows: "Our misfortunes pervade the whole territory, operate on the whole population, and are as diversified in character as our public interests and necessities are various. Texas at large feels and deplores an utter destitution of the common benefits which have

usually accrued from the worst system of internal government that the patience of mankind ever tolerated.

"She is virtually without a government, and if she be not precipitated into all the horrors of anarchy, it is only because there is a reclaiming spirit among the people which infuses a moral energy into the fragments of authority that exist among us. * * * We complain more of the want of all the important attributes of government than of the abuses of any.

"There are some impressive reasons why the peace and happiness of Texas demand a local government, constituting a remote frontier of the Republic, and bordering on a powerful nation, a portion of whose population in juxta-position with her is notoriously profligate and lawless; she requires, in a peculiar and complete sense, the vigorous application of such laws as are essential to the prevention of illicit commerce, to the security of the public revenues and to the avoidance of serious collision with authorities of the neighboring Republic. That such a judicial administration is impracticable under the present arrangement is too forcibly illustrated by the past to admit of any natural hope for the future. It is an acknowledged principle in the science of jurisprudence that the prompt and certain infliction of mild and humane punishments is more efficacious for the prevention of crime than a tardy and precarious administration of the most sanguinary penal code.

"Texas is virtually denied the benefit of this benevolent rule by the locality and the character of her present government. * * * These repeated delays, resulting from the remoteness of our courts of judicature, are pernicious in many respects. They involve heavy expenses, which in civil suits are excessively onerous to litigants, and give to the rich and influential such manifold advantages over the poor, as operate to an absolute exclusion of the latter from the remedial and protective benefits of the law.



COL. BENJAMIN R. MILAM.

"They offer seductive opportunities and incitements to bribery and corruption, and endanger the sacred purity of the judiciary, which, of all the branches of government, is most intimately associated with the domestic and social happiness of man; and should therefore be, not only sound and pure; but unsuspected of the venal infection. They present insuperable difficulties to the exercise of the corrective right of recusation, and virtually nullify the constitutional power of impeachment. In criminal actions they are no less injurious. They are equivalent to a license to iniquity, and exert a dangerous influence on the moral feelings at large. * * * The popular feeling is changed from a just indignation of the crime, into an amiable, but mistaken sympathy for the criminal, and by an easy and natural transition, is converted into disgust and disaffection towards the government and its laws. * * *"

The petition was an arraignment of the government officials and the manner of enforcing the laws as well nigh criminal, while it was almost a counterpart of the arraignment our ancestors gave to Great Britain in the early struggles of the American colonies. It spoke the sentiments of true American manhood, untrammeled by the fear of tryanny's shackles.

The convention nominated three commissioners, Stephen F. Austin, Erasmo Seguin and James B. Miller, to carry the missive to the supreme government over 1200 miles away, over rugged ways, surrounded by many dangers and toils. It finally fell on Stephen F. Austin alone to bear the message fraught with so much significance, and attended with so much danger. But the faithful and intrepid Austin was ready for all emergencies and left Texas in April following, for the City of Mexico, where he arrived safely, and found the discontent as great and turbulent as it had been ten years prior, when he was an applicant for the confirmation of his contract of colonization. Austin found the whole government in turmoil—divided into military factions for supremacy—the country threatening revolution, and the rise

and fall of dynasties was as quick and complete as the intrigues of the Arab chiefs, and in the artful plans for success none played a more brilliant role than Santa Anna, who had himself elected, proclaimed supreme dictator by eight of his leading generals and four bishops of his diocese. It is hardly worth while to add that his election was unanimous, and ratified by the army then under his control. With such powerful auxiliaries, no wonder he could sway the sceptre of the autocrat, and trample under his iron tread all opposition in Mexico, and whenever the head of man was reared in defense of freedom and liberty, the head went off and the tongue was throttled, lest it would live to speak again in defense of liberty's cause. When Austin stated his mission to the council of the supreme government and made known the contents of the petition of the colonists, he called down upon his head the wrath of the generalissimo, who was sublime dictator over all the destinies of Mexico. Austin, perceiving the trend of affairs in Mexico, was active in advising his people and every interest in Texas to organize for local self-government. He plainly saw that no colonization plan could ever be successful under the rule of the quasi revolutionary dictatorship of Santa Anna, or any other Mexican ruler.

His advices to his people in Texas were intercepted by the government officials, and when he bade the administration good-by and left for home, he was arrested on his route at Saltillo, returned to the City of Mexico and imprisoned in the dungeons of the old inquisition, shut out from the light of day, and not allowed to speak to or correspond with any one, nor to have books, pen, ink or paper.

Austin had his enemies like all men who are engaged in a great and humane work. These enemies tried to cast gloom over his enterprises, and perhaps rob him of the share of praise due from his people. Such robbers are plentiful, even now.

After a lingering confinement Austin made his statements

to the government, who finally liberated him, and he returned to the people who had commissioned him to go in their behalf.

Santa Anna had in the mean time dissolved the constitutional congress, and in this manner retained in his own hands the substantial authority of government, which he covertly used to destroy the constitution he had sworn to defend.

These high-handed acts of Santa Anna brought out strong opposition among some of the wealthy Mexicans, who issued proclamations (pronunciamentos) denouncing Santa Anna and his unconstitutional acts. But in the tumult and after many conflicts Santa Anna grew in the ascendancy. He virtually dissolved the social compact, and placed every man outside the pale of his army and cabinet under a ban of distrust and warfare. Anarchy was reigning in all sections—laws and constitutions obliterated at will; when one arose to protest, he was summarily court martialed and shot. Truly did the advancing legions of the dictator go with a mightier tread than those of Nero or Calligula, and as often imbued in innocent blood as the father of the Turkish harmem in his assassinate orders.

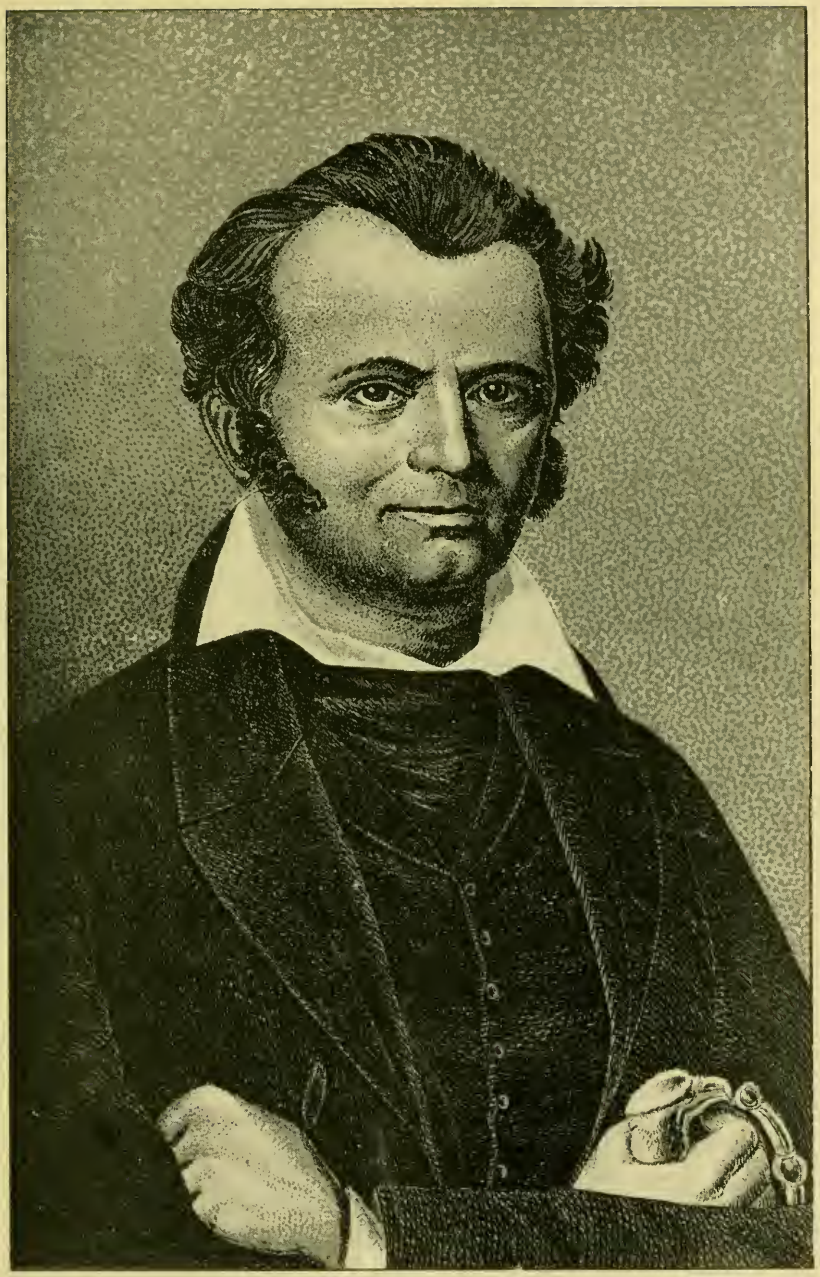
To provide a remedy against this misrule and tyrannical condition of affairs, a large body of Cohahuilan citizens assembled with the inhabitants of Bexar at San Antonio on the 13th of October, 1834, and resolved, on motion of Don Erasmo Seguin, the chief of the department, that a state convention should be held in Bexar on the 15th of November, 1834, to organize a provisional government in order "to save the country from unparalleled anarchy and confusion." Copies of the resolution were sent to all the other departments of the state. The project was approved by all the deputies, but it was not carried out for a want of concert of action.

In the meantime Don Lorenzo de Zavala had resigned his position to the French embassy from the government of Mexico on account of the intrigues and usurpation of the Dictator Santa Anna, whom he formerly followed, when the ruler held the

constitution of 1824 in sacred honor and kept his oath to support the same inviolate. When Zavala returned from France he sent his letter of resignation to the Dictator Santa Anna, and strongly upholding the liberal views which fostered the constitution of their country, he retired to his estate on the San Jacinto river in Texas, when demanded by Santa Anna.

Zavala's position and experience gave him an accurate perception of Santa Anna's revolutionary schemes. The Plan of Toluca, published by the order of the Dictator, calling for a change of the Mexican government from a federal to a central republic, was the certain prelude to the overthrow of the constitutional compact. In all the events of the Texans Zavala was a hearty co-laborer with Stephen F. Austin and all the other patriots of Texas. Early in September, 1835, Stephen F. Austin returned to his home from his long prison life in the City of Mexico, and on the 8th of September attended a public dinner at Brazoria, given in honor of his return to his countrymen. In a speech to his fellow-citizens on that occasion, he said among other things: "I left Texas in April, 1833, as the public agent of the people, for the purpose of applying for the admission of this country into the Mexican confederation as a state separate from Cohahuila. This application was based upon the constitutional and vested rights of Texas, and was sustained by me in the City of Mexico to the utmost of my abilities.

"No honorable means were spared to effect the objects of my mission, and to oppose the forming into a territory, which was attempted. I rigidly adhered to the instructions and wishes of my constituents, so far as they were communicated to me. My efforts to serve Texas involved me in the labyrinth of Mexican politics. I was arrested and have suffered a long persecution and imprisonment. * * * The revolution in Mexico is drawing to a close. The object is to change the form of government, destroy the Federal Constitution of 1824, and establish a central, or consolidated government. The states are to be converted into



JAMES BOWIE.

provinces. Texas certainly did not originate that revolution, neither have the people, as a people, participated in it. The consciences and hands of the Texans are free from censure and clean.

"Whether the people of Texas ought or ought not to agree to this change, and relinquish all or a part of their constitutional and vested rights under the constitution of 1824, is a question of the most vital importance, one that calls for the deliberate consideration of the people; and can only be decided by them, fairly convened for the purpose. * * * Under the Spanish government, Texas was a seperate and distinct province. As such it had a separate and distinct local organization. It was one of the unities that composed the general mass of the nation, and as such participated in the war of the revolution, and was represented in the constituent congress of Mexico that formed the constitution of 1824. This constituent congress, so far from destroying this unity, expressly recognized and confirmed it by the law of May 7th, 1824, which united Texas with Cohahuila provisionally, under the especial guarantee of being made a state of the Mexican confederation as soon as it possessed the necessary elements. That law and the Federal Constitution gave to Texas a specific political existence, and vested in its inhabitants special and defined rights, which can only be relinquished by the people of Texas, acting for themselves as a unity, and not as a part of Cohahuila, for the reason that the union with Cohahuila was limited, and only gave power to the State of Cohahuila and Texas to govern Texas for the time being, but always subject to the vested rights of Texas. The state, therefore, cannot relinquish those vested rights by agreeing to the change of government, or by any other act, unless expressly authorized by the people of Texas to do so; neither can the general government of Mexico legally deprive Texas of them without the consent of this people. These are my opinions.

"An important question now presents itself to the people

of this country. The Federal Constitution of 1824 is about to be destroyed; the system of government changed, and a central or consolidated one be established. * * This matter requires the most calm discussion, the most mature deliberation, and the most perfect union. How is this to be had? I see but one way, and that is by a general consultation of the people by means of delegates elected for that purpose, with full powers to give such an answer, in the name of Texas, to this question, as they deem best, and to adopt such measures as the tranquility and salvation of the country may require. * * *"

Committees of safety were appointed among all the colonists in Texas and in every department where messengers could reach. Austin was chairman of the committee in his own colony, which met at San Filipe.

Santa Anna, mistrusting the independent blood flowing through the Anglo-Saxon's veins, and having seen enough on the Texas border to arouse his fear that the colonists in Texas would not endure his tyrannical usurpation without a long resistance, and believing the colonists were growing strong in numbers, and that their lands were yielding great wealth, sent one of his trusted generals on a secret mission among the colonists in Texas, and to report to Santa Anna of his errand.

General Juan N. Almonte was detailed for this purpose, and in the spring of 1835 made a full and complete report to the general government of his observations, giving in detail the topography of the country from the Rio Grande to Sabine river, giving number of colonists, the number of schools and how taught; the yield of products of the soil; giving distances from one point to another, and how the military fortifications were located and manned.

Indeed, his report was so replete that it shows an ulterior military movement was contemplated, and only awaited the report to put it on foot; as the report gave out the fact that it was unnecessary to bring troops and an army into Texas overland; as

it was but four days to move thither by land to Vera Cruz, and the voyage from thence to Galveston or Brazoria might be made in six or eight days more.

The committee of safety had information of the most positive character that the intention of the dominant party in Mexico was to introduce military government in Texas, the invasion of which was a common theme of conversation among officers. "Infantry, artillery and cavalry had been ordered from San Louis Potosi, Saltillo and Tamanlipas, and all disposable infantry at Campeachy and other interior points in Mexico had been ordered on to Texas by water. Magazines of arms and ammunition were being concentrated at Matamoras, Goliad and Bexar, and the old barracks and fortifications at the latter place were undergoing repairs to receive a large force. Falcon, who was duly installed as the constitutional governor of the state, was deposed by the military and a governor appointed by Santa Anna.

Instructions had been issued by General Cos to Colonel Ugertechea, commandant of Bexar, to march into the colonies and take Zavala and the other proscribed Mexicans, be the consequences what they may. In addition to the flagrant outrage on the civil government, and to make resistance less forcible, Cos issued an order requiring the citizens of Brazoria, Columbia, Velasco and other places to surrender their arms to the military authorities.

It was known that Cos himself was expected at Bexar with a strong reinforcement of troops, and his motive was to destroy the unity of the colonists and "break up the foreign settlements in Texas." Being now satisfied that the time for action had come, that the invader was at the very gates with panoplied armies and glittering spurs, the committee of safety for the jurisdiction of Austin issued a circular, dated September 19th, 1835, and addressed to the people of Texas which, among other things recited, * * * "That every district should send members to the general consultation, with full powers to do whatever may be neces-

sary for the good of the country; that every district should organize its militia, where it is not already done, and hold frequent musters; and that the captains of companies make a return, without delay, to the chief of this department, of the force of his company, and its arms and ammunition, in order that he may lay the same before the general consultation of Texas. Volunteer companies are also recommended. This committee deem it to be their duty to say that, in their opinion, all kinds of conciliatory measures with General Cos and the military at Bexar are hopeless, and that nothing but the ruin of Texas can be expected from any such measures. They have already, and very properly, been resorted to without effect.

"War is our only recourse. There is no other remedy. We must defend our rights, ourselves and our country by force of arms. To do this we must unite, and in order to unite, the delegates of the people meet in general consultation and arrange a system of defense, and give organization to the country so as to produce concert.

"Until some competent authority is established to direct, all that can be done is to recommend this subject to the people, and to advise every man in Texas to prepare for war, and lay aside all hope of conciliation."

Already General Cos was at Copano with 400 men from Matamoras on his way to San Antonio de Bexar. He was well equipped with guards, lancers and munitions of war. He had over $60,000 in silver in his coffers, and in a private letter, dated October 1st, 1835, at La Baca, he informed the Alcade of the Nueces district that he intended to overrun Texas and march into the colonies and regulate their affairs.

Thus was war declared by the invasion of Santa Anna's cohorts on the vested rights of the Texans. "To arms," was the slogan of war on every side.

Preparation was being hastily made among the colonists to

repell the invasion, and hurl back the iron heel of the despotic satraps of the self-proclaimed Dictator Santa Anna.

Colonel Ugartechea, at the head of 200 Mexican cavalry, made the first military demonstration against the municipality of Gonzales by demanding of the Alcade a piece of artillery which had been four years perviously given to the citizens there for their defense and their rights under constitutional government.

The demand was refused. On the 20th of September the Mexican forces attempted to cross the Guadalupe river, but were repulsed by eighteen men, under Captain Albert Martin, the whole of the available force then at Gonzales. The Mexicans encamped on a small mound near by till the 1st of October, when they removed and assumed a strong position seven miles above the town of Gonzales. The Texans had been reinforced by their countrymen from Guadalupe, La Baca and Colorado to 168 men, of whom fifty were mounted. John H. Moore was elected colonel of the battalion and J. W. E. Wallace lieutenant colonel. They, expecting the Mexicans would be reinforced from San Antonio de Bexar, prepared for the attack on the Mexican stronghold. Dividing their men into two columns, the advance was made. During the thick fog early in the morning the enemy could not be observed. A few stray shots from the picket line told where they were. When the little brass cannon was brought into play with a few well-directed shots, and a charge by the Texans at quick pace put the enemy to flight, and they retired towards San Antonio, after having sustained considerable loss in killed and wounded.

Inspired by this success, the colonists resolved to attack the Mexicans at Goliad and San Antonio, and sent out to all settlements for volunteers to be sent down to augment their forces. Stephen F. Austin sent a messenger to the people of the eastern municipalities, urging them to join their friends in the department of the Brazos, who were animated by one spirit of defense,

and taking Bexar, and driving the Mexican military out of Texas.

In the address of the general council at San Felipe de Austin, to the people of Texas, October 23, 1835, they said: "Like our fathers of the revolution, we have sworn to live free or die. Like our fathers of 1776, we have pledged to each other our lives, fortunes and sacred honors, and have vowed to drive every Mexican soldier beyond the Rio Grande, or whiten the plains with our bones."

The revolutionary and unconstitutional methods of Santa Anna in Mexico had caused many good people in Puebla, Oaxaca, Zalisco, Zacatacas and other states of Mexico to rise in revolt against the Dictator; and many serious conflicts of arms were had in the struggle for supremacy. Santa Anna, being in control of the army and navy, all the treasury and munitions of war of the nation, had an easy task in putting the revolt down, and executing the leaders of the agitation.

It has been a favorite pastime of all the rulers of Mexico, who owe their positions to revolution and intrigue, to execute all those who oppose them, and by mock tribunals, appointed by the Dictator to carry out certain measures, to always order shot on short notice those who criticise the government in any manner, or speak of the usurpation of the president in power. After Santa Anna had accomplished his desires on his countrymen in Mexico, and flushed with victory over them in arms, and drinking the blood afresh from the martyred patriots, he turned his attention towards Texas, and no doubt swore in his heart to take the blood of every American found in Texas; if not killed in battle, to put them to the sword after capture. Subsequent events fully show this character in the heart of the meanest coward that ever paraded before the gaze of man the most venal tyrant that ever drew a sword in any cause.

Santa Anna ordered his brother-in-law, General Martin Perfecto de Cos, who was in command at Matamoras, Mexico, to

proceed with a suitable force to the eastern internal provinces and punish the legislature of Cohahuila and Texas.

General Cos issued an address denouncing the legislature at Mouclova. Benjamin R. Milam, who had fought under Jackson at New Orleans, a brave soldier from Kentucky, was a member of the legislature of Cohahuila and Texas, and was at Mouclova at this time. During the usurpation of the military under Cos, the governor of Cohahuila and Texas attempted to move the effects of the state across the Rio Grande. Milam and others were his escort. Finding his plans of escape frustrated, he finally delivered the state government over to Cos. When this was done he and Milam and Dr. Cameron were arrested and sent under guard to the dungeons of the Castle of San Juan D'Ulloa, at Vera Cruz. At Monterey, en route, Milam and Cameron made their escape by different routes, and Milam, foot sore and hungry, after a march of over five hundred miles through the enemy's country, found his way to Goliad, Texas, and joined the Texas forces there in an almost famished condition.

On the 8th of October, 1835, a detachment of fifty men, under Captain Collinsworth, attacked and captured the post of Goliad, with 300 stand of arms and $10,000 worth of stores. The garrison was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Sandoval. In this engagement Colonel Milam took up arms in the army of Texas as a private soldier.

On the 11th of October the "western army" of the colonists was organized at headquarters on the right bank of the Guadalupe. Stephen Austin was elected commander-in-chief, and on the 13th of October he moved towards Bexar, which he proposed to reduce, though strongly fortified by Mexican soldiers under General Cos, over 1500 strong.

The whole Texas force did not amount to more than 300 men, poorly disciplined and poorly armed. But when a soldier's cause is just, his banner floats proudly to the last, and death is sweet in the embrace of victory. Austin, feeling the necessity

for additional strength, wrote to the committee of safety at San Felipe, urging up the eastern volunteers "to hurry on by forced marches, not to stay for cannon, or for anything." On the 20th of October the Texans reached the Salado creek, about five miles from San Antonio de Bexar, to wait for reinforcements.

Cos refused to receive a flag of truce from Austin, or to acknowledge him in a military capacity, saying he would fire on the second flag of truce if sent.

After the fall of Goliad, the Mexicans used every effort to fortify San Antonio de Bexar, and the colonists could not hope to reduce the garrison without artillery and reinforcements. They expected cannon from eastern Texas and accessions from the United States.

On the 27th of October Colonel James Bowie and Captain J. W. Fannin, by order of the commanding general, Stephen Austin, with a detachment of ninety men, proceeded to examine the old missions and select the most eligible situation near San Antonio for the encampment of the main army. After inspecting missions San Juan and San Jose, they proceeded to that of Concepcion, distant about one and a half miles from San Antonio, and selected ground about five hundred yards from the mission in the bend of the San Antonio river. At this place the detachment lay on arms all night without alarm. On the morning of the 28th the fog was so dense that the pickets were unable to discern objects not close. About half an hour after sun rise the Mexican cavalry rode close by and fired on the sentinels.

The official account made by Colonel Bowie to General Austin of the fight which ensued is here given as the best description:

"The men were called to arms, but were for some time unable to discover their foes, who had entirely surrounded the position and kept up a constant firing at a distance, with no other effect than a waste of ammunition. When the fog rose it was apparent to all that we were surrounded, and that a desperate

SIEGE OF THE ALAMO. MARCH 6, 1836.

fight was inevitable, all communication with the main army having been cut off. Immediate preparation was made by extending our right flank to the south and placing the second division on the left, on the same side, so that they might be prepared for the enemy should they charge into the angle and avoid the effect of a cross fire by our own men, and likewise form a compact body, so that either might reinforce the other at the shortest notice without crossing the angle, an exposed ground, which would have occasioned certain loss.

"The men in the meantime were ordered to clear away bushes and vines under the eminence in the rear and along the margin of the river, and at the steepest places to cut steps for foot hold, in order to afford them space to form and pass, and at suitable places ascend the bluff, discharge their rifles and fall back to reload. The work was not complete to our wish before the Mexican infantry were seen to advance, with arms trailed, to the right of the first division, and form the line of battle about two hundred yards distant from the right flank. Five companies of cavalry supported them, covering our whole front and flank.

"The engagement commenced at about eight o'clock a. m., by the deadly crack of a rifle from the extreme right. The action was immediately general. The discharge from the enemy was one continued blaze of fire, whilst that from our lines was more slowly delivered, but with good aim and deadly effect, each man retiring under cover of the hill and timber to give place to others until he reloaded. The battle had not lasted more than ten minutes when a brass six pounder was opened on our line at the distance of about eighty yards from the right flank of the first division, and a charge sounded. But the cannon was cleared as if by magic and a check put to the charge.

"The same experiment was resorted to with like success three times, the division advancing under cover of the hill at each fire, and thus approximating near the cannon and victory. 'The cannon and victory' was truly the war cry. The enemy only

fired it five times, and it had been three times cleared, and their charge as often broken, when a disorderly and precipitate retreat was sounded and most readily obeyed, leaving the cannon to the victors. Thus a detachment of ninety men gained a complete victory over part of the main army of the central government, being at least four to one, with only the loss of one brave soldier (Richard Andrews), and none wounded. No invidious distinction can be drawn between any officer or private on this occasion. Every man was a soldier, and did his duty agreeably to the situation and circumstances under which he was placed. At the close of the engagement a piece of heavy artillery was brought up and fired thrice, but at a distance, and by a reinforcement of another company of cavalry, aided by six mules ready harnessed, they got it off. The main army (of Texas) reached us in about an hour after the enemy's retreat.

"Had it been possible to communicate with you (General Austin), and brought you up earlier, the victory would have been conclusive and San Antonio de Bexar ours before 12 o'clock."

Colonel Bowie estimated the Mexican loss at sixty killed and forty wounded. None of the artillery men escaped unhurt.

James Bowie came to Texas several years prior to this date from Mississippi with his brother, Razin P. Bowie. These brothers were the inventors and first makers of a formidable hunting knife, which bears their name, and which blade is often used in mode of defense. The Bowies were famous for their daring bravery and coolness under great difficulties, and were known far and near as the most intrepid Indian fighters of the West. James Bowie had married the beautiful daughter of Don Antonio de la Garza, of San Antonio.

On the 28th of October, the Texas army, having received some small reinforcements, advanced close to San Antonio. General Cos, afraid to hazard an engagement, prepared to defend the town by barricading the streets, planting cannon on top of the church and the Alamo.

On the 3d of November a detachment of fifty men from Goliad, under Adjutant Westover, had a battle near San Patricio, Tex., and captured and paroled 21 prisoners, taking two small pieces of cannon which had been taken from the citizens of San Patricio by the Mexican soldiers.

On the 4th a body of seventy hostile Mexicans attacked Westover's command, and after a half hour's engagement the Mexicans retreated with a loss of twenty-eight killed and wounded. The Texans had one man wounded in the hand.

On November 8th General Cos sent a detachment of his forces to burn all the grass within thirty miles of San Antonio de Bexar. A party of forty Texans went to intercept them. A fight ensued, in which the Texans were victorious without material loss. The Mexicans lost six killed and several wounded. This was known as the "grass fight."

On the 26th of November another open field fight occurred between the Mexican and Texas forces, with about equal numbers on each side, 300. The Texans pursued the retreating forces of Mexicans until they were fired on by cannons in the forts of Bexar.

Stephen F. Austin, Branch I. Archer and W. H. Wharton, having been appointed by the consultation at San Felipe commissioners to the United States, on the 29th of November General Austin arrived in San Felipe to undertake the duties of the appointment.

Edward Burleson, elected by the volunteers composing the army to the chief command, was left to conduct the siege of San Antonio de Bexar. B. R. Milam was colonel in the army, Department of Bexar, and F. T. Johnson lieutenant colonel.

The consultation at San Felipe had chosen General Sam Houston, of Tennessee,* major general and commander-in-chief

* General Houston was former governor of Tennessee. Having met the sad fate of disappointment so common in so many households, he bid adieu to his native land and sought surcease from sorrow among the Indian tribes. When the struggle for Independence opened in Texas, he threw aside the tepee and blanket of the Indian chiefs, and donned the spur and saber of the Texan, and won for Texas, through his great skill on the plains of San Jacinto, the Independence of Texas.

of the Texas army, who had established his quarters at Washington on the Brazos.

General Houston, having great experience with the Indian character, was empowered to engage with the chiefs of the tribes in Texas on the basis of some amicable terms of peace. These hostile red cut throats had taken advantage of the strained condition of affairs in Texas and were committing many acts of devastation and ruin, so much so that the committee of safety appointed three companies of armed horsemen to ride and patrol the country from the Brazos to the Colorado rivers, and beyond. They were selected for their determined character and unswerving bravery, and no class of men ever wore brighter spurs nor sheathed their blades with fairer laurels than they.

The companies were known as "Texas Rangers," and the appellation is kept up to this day, as well as close organizations, and woe to the marauder who came under their vigilance. Death was sure to follow.

The consultation which had established the provisional government for Texas had adjourned until the 1st of March following, when the governor and council were to meet again, unless sooner convened, and election ordered for commissioners or delegates to such convention or council with fuller powers than had been previously delegated. In other words, fully empowered to form a constitution for the people, to set forth a bill of rights, and regulate the provisional government, the army and navy as well. All authority was to be subservient to the determination of the delegates chosen by the people.

"The Federal Volunteer army of Texas," had marched to the siege of San Antonio de Bexar. In the occasional engagements had with the Mexican forces, the Texans have been quite victorious, though often greatly outnumbered. This led the volunteers to animation, and eager for the coming contest.

General Cos had a strong garrison in San Antonio de Bexar, well equipped with ammunition and provisions, well supplied

DAVID CROCKETT.

with artillery and cavalry. Colonel Ugartechea, of the Mexican army, had reinforced the garrison with 300 additional troops during the siege. This swelled the force of General Cos to 1500 well-equipped troops inside the garrison, and their strongly-entrenched position made them all defiant; for during the assaults of the Texans and while the garrison held out, a black and red flag hung out over the "Alamo," indicating that no quarter would be given. This had doubtless been inspired by Santa Anna himself in his orders to his commanders, thinking by this means to overawe and deter the ranks of the Texas forces.

To confront this greatly superior numerical force, General Burleson had not more than 500 men, but determined followers. They were eager for the fight, believing in the supremacy of their cause, fighting to repel invasion, fighting against tyranny, fighting in the face of a flaunting flag that spoke no quarter, was incentive enough to raise the courage of any man to a lion's pitch.

The beautiful Indian summer had just passed; the northers of December were coming on the Volunteers. Many of them thinly clad were not able to stand the rigors of the winter's "northers," so they began to clamor for the onslaught. They could not understand why the charge had not been sounded, and some of them were growing discontented over long delays. The brave and intrepid B. R. Milam could stand no longer idle in the face of the black flag, so he and a few of the officers began to search for volunteers to attack San Antonio.

They succeeded in mustering about 300 sturdy, stout-hearted, brave men, who consented to follow Milam to victory or death. They chose the war-worn Milam as their leader. His judicious skill showed him fully equal to the task, and showed that he was well acquainted with the material confronting him.

The town was situated in the form of an oblong square, and lay on the southwest bank of the San Antonio river. "Two small bridges spanned the river on the two streets communicating on the eastern side of the river, where were the walled en-

closures of the Alamo. Westward of the town was the camp of the volunteers. Directing Colonel Neil to divert the attention of the Mexicans by making a feint upon the Alamo, Milam prepared to effect a lodgment in the town at 3 o'clock on the morning of the 5th of December. Neil, taking a sweeping course by the sources of the San Antonio river, commenced, with a piece of artillery, a fire upon the Alamo, while Milam, having provided his followers with crow bars and other forcing implements, made an entrance into the suburbs beyond the range of the Mexican fortifications. Apprised of Milam's advance by the firing which followed it, Neil retraced his steps and returned with his party to the camp at 9 a. m."

On the 6th of December the following dispatch, signed by Edward Burleson and B. R. Milam, was sent to the Provisional Government at San Felipe:

"Yesterday morning at daybreak, Colonel Milam, with a party of abount 300 volunteers, made an assault upon the town of Bexar. His party he distributed in two divisions which, on entering the town, took possession of two buildings near each other, near the place where they have been ever since, battling with the enemy. They have so far had a fierce contest, the enemy offering a strong and obstinate resistance. The houses occupied by us command some of the cannon in the place, or have silenced them entirely, as it is reported to us. The issue is doubtful, of course. Ugartechea is on the way with considerable reinforcements; how near has not yet been exactly ascertained, but certainly he is not more than from fifty to sixty miles off. This express has been dispatched for an immediate supply of ammunition, as much powder and lead as can possibly be sent instantly. Of the first mentioned article, there is none beyond the cannon cartridges already made up. I hope that good mules or horses will be procured to send on these articles with the greatest possible speed, traveling night and day, for there is not a moment to be lost. Reinforcements of men are,

perhaps, indispensable to our salvation. I hope every exertion will be made to force them to our relief immediately."

These lines were penned by men in sore distress. They feared the consequences of a bolder attack, and the appeal was full of stress. And royally did the general council of the special committee go to work. They issued an address on the 10th of December to the people of Texas, urging them to rally to the rescue of the army before Bexar. All attention had been riveted on this little band of patriots. Contractors were pushing on with the ammunition. All was rally; the people were called to arms in great emergency.

Fannin and Rusk were appointed by the council to go east and west of the Trinity, and rally reinforcements. While this was being done, the volunteers were watching every line to see where to make the charge. The siege had been continuous from 3 o'clock a. m. on the 5th of December. General Burleson formed all the reserves and held them in readiness for the attack. Colonel Johnson commanded the second division of the army of investment, who had been reinforced by Captains Cheshire, Sutherland and Lewis.

Milam commanded the first division, supported by two pieces of cannon and fifteen artillerymen, and took possession of the house of Don Antonio de la Garza. Johnson's division forced its way into the dwelling of Vereimendi, amidst a heavy discharge of grape shot and musketry. It was in this house Colonel Milam was killed by a rifle shot. The contest lasted until half past six o'clock on the morning of December 9, when the enemy hauled down the black flag and put up the flag of truce. The well-directed fire of the Mexican volunteers reminded the Mexican bluffers that they were working for the black flag with its calls. Colonel Johnson gives in detail in his report the terms of the battle and the capitulation, and we give it in full, though lengthy. And while the report should thus be sent by a subordinate officer while General Burleson was in command,

can only be solved by the retiring modesty of that brave Texan, who only fought for the glory of Texas and the rights of self-government. Be it said to his honored memory that no caviling spirit ever followed him to the grave, nor the want of valor tarnished his sword while living. "At 7 o'clock," says the official report of Colonel Johnson, "a heavy cannonading from the town was seconded by a well-directed fire from the Alamo, which for a time prevented the possibility of covering our lines or effecting a safe communication between the two divisions."

"In consequence of the twelve-pounder having been dismounted, and the want of proper cover for the other gun, little execution was done by our artillery during the day. We were, therefore, reduced to a close and well-directed fire from our rifles which, notwithstanding the advantageous position of the enemy, obliged them to slacken their fire and several times to abandon their artillery within the range of our shot. Our loss during the day was one private killed, one colonel and one first lieutenant severely wounded, one colonel slightly, three privates dangerously, six severely and three slightly. * * * * At daylight of the 6th, the enemy were observed to have occupied the tops of the houses in our front, where, under cover of the breast-works, they opened through loopholes a very brisk fire of small arms on our whole line, followed by a steady cannonading from the town in front, and from the Alamo on the left flank, with few interruptions during the day.

"A detachment of Captain Crane's company, under Lieutenant W. McDonald, followed by others, gallantly possessed themselves, under a severe fire, of the house to the right and in advance of the first division, which considerably extended our line; while the rest of the army was occupied in returning the enemy's fire and strengthening our trenches, which enabled our artillery to do some execution and complete a safe communication from our right to left. Our loss this day amounted to three privates severely wounded and two slightly.

"During the night the fire of the enemy was inconsiderable, and our people were occupied in making and filling sand bags, and otherwise strengthening our lines. At daylight on the 7th, it was discovered that the enemy had, during the night previous, opened a trench on the Alamo side of the river and on the left flank, as well as strengthened their battery on the cross street leading to the Alamo. From the first they opened up a brisk fire of small arms, which was kept up until 11 o'clock, when they were silenced by our superior fire.

"About 12 o'clock Henry Kames, of Captain York's company, exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy, gallantly advanced to a house in front of the first division, and with a crowbar forced an entrance through which the whole company immediately followed him, and made a secure lodgment.

"In the evening the enemy renewed a heavy fire from all the positions which could bear upon us, and at about half past three o'clock, as our gallant commander, Colonel Milam, was passing into the yard of my position (the house of Verimendi), he received a rifle shot in the head which caused his instant death—an irreparable loss at so critical a moment. Our casualties otherwise during this day were only two privates slightly wounded.

"At a meeting of officers held at seven o'clock, I was invested with the chief command, with Major Morris as my second, Captains Lewellyn, English, Crane and Landrum, with their respective companies, forced their way into and took possession of the house of Don Antonio Navarro, an advanced and important position close to the square.

"The fire of the enemy became interrupted and slack during the whole night, and the weather exceedingly cold and wet. The morning of the 8th continued cold and wet, and but little firing on either side. At nine o'clock the same companies who took possession of Don J. Antonio Navarro's house, aided by

a detachment of the Grays, advanced and occupied the Zambrano Row, leading to the square, without any accident.

"The brave conduct on this occasion of William Graham, of Cook's Company of Grays, merits mention. A heavy fire of artillery and small arms was opened on this position by the enemy, who disputed every inch of ground, and after suffering a severe loss of officers and men, were obliged to retire from room to room until they evacuated the whole building. During this time our men were reinforced by a detachment from York's company, under the command of Lieutenant Gill. The cannonading was exceedingly heavy from all quarters during the day, but did no essential damage. Our loss consisted of one captain seriously wounded. and two privates severely. At seven o'clock in the evening the party in Zambrano's Row were reinforced by Captains Swisher, Ailey, Edwards and Duncan, and their respective companies. This evening we had undoubted information of the arrival of a strong reinforcement to the enemy under Colonel Ugartechea. At half past ten o'clock in the evening Captains Cook and Patton, with the Company of New Orleans Grays and a company of Brazaria volunteers, forced their way into the priest's house in the square, although exposed to the fire of a battery of three guns and a large body of musketeers. Before this, however, the division was reinforced from the reserves by Captains Cheshire, Sutherland and Lewis, and their companies. Immediately after we got possession of the priest's house they opened a furious cannonade from all their batteries, accompanied by incessant volleys of small arms, against every house in our possession and every part of our lines, which continued unceasingly until half past six o'clock of the morning of the 9th, when they sent a flag of truce, with an intimation that they desired to capitulate. Our loss in this night's attack consisted of one man only dangerously wounded while in the act of spiking a cannon. The loss to the Texans was trifling, save Colonel Milam's death. The loss of the Mexicans was severe, some reporting 200 killed and 300 wounded."

Thus ended one of the most stubbornly-contested engagements between the contending parties, with a complete victory to the Texas arms. On the 11th of December, 1835, the commissioners on each side met and agreed upon terms of capitulation, which were ratified and approved by the respective commanders-in-chief—Burleson and Cos.

The terms of the capitulation were: "The retirement of General Cos and his officers, with their arms and private property, into the interior of the Republic of Mexico, under paroles of honor that they would not in any way oppose the re-establishment of the Federal Constitution of 1824. The retirement with the general of the 100 infantry lately arrived with the convicts, the remnants of the battalion of Morelos, and the cavalry, taking their arms and ten rounds of cartridges. The removal beyond the Rio Grande of the convicts brought in by Colonel Ugartechea, the troops to be free to follow their general, or to remain, or to go to such point as they might think proper; but in case all or any of them separated, they were to have their arms, etc. All public property, money, arms and munitions of war to be inventoried and delivered to General Burleson. All private property to be restored to its owners. That General Cos should remove within six days, and that during the interval he should occupy the Alamo, while the Texans occupied the town of Bexar. The citizens were to be protected in their persons and property; nor was any person to be molested on account of political opinions previously expressed. The sick and wounded Mexicans were to be allowed to remain with a surgeon and attendance, and General Cos was to be furnished with provisions at the ordinary prices to maintain his troops to the Rio Grande. On the morning of December 14th, Cos removed from the Alamo to the Mission San Jose, and on the following day commenced his march for the Rio Grande. A large quantity of military stores in the town and in the fort was delivered to General Burleson, including nineteen pieces of cannon

of various caliber, two swivel guns, several hundred stands of arms, bayonets, lances, and an abundance of ammunition."

The first great campaign of the colonists was at an end. From the Sabine to the Rio Grande no Mexican soldier was to be found save General Cos and his paroled followers. The garrison and town of San Antonio de Bexar were placed under the command of the brave Colonel Johnson. The rest of the volunteer army were permitted to return to their homes. They had shown in the short, active campaign the valor and successes which no trained soldiery in ancient or modern times have ever accomplished. A mere handful of raw and undisciplined men fresh from the fields of honest toil, banding themselves together for one common cause, the liberty of the people; choosing their own commanders, and by dint of honor obeying like trained soldiers, merits an encomium seldom bestowed. Such honors outlive the marble and brass on which the hieroglyphics of fame are often enrolled. To such, a state is indebted for more than posterity can repay, for they fought the battles of their country without emolument, without the hope of reward. Patriotism grand and sublime shown out from every brow, unsullied honor crowned every act of the volunteer soldier, the hope of Texas. Of him it cannot be said:

"For gold, his sword the hireling chieftain draws,
For gold, the sordid Judge distorts the laws."

CHAPTER III.

News of Santa Anna Mustering Another Army for Texas Invasion—Appeals to the Settlers—Colonel Fannin at Goliad—Colonels Travis, Bowie, Crockett and Their Followers in San Antonio de Bexar—March of Santa Anna's Army to Bexar—Attack on the Town—Texans Take Shelter in the Alamo—Travis' Last Appeal—Almonte's Diary Report—Assault on the Alamo—The Storming—Description of the Battle—Fall of the Alamo—Death of the Defenders, Travis, Bowie, Crockett.

When the volunteer soldiery returned to their homes after the victory of San Antonio de Bexar, and when every Mexican soldier was driven from the borders of Texas, the quiet dream of peace settled in the abode of all homes. Happiness had returned to sweeten the lives of those who had escaped the casualties of war. But not long to rest in such happy homes was left to their repose, for news from various reliable sources conveyed the intelligence that Santa Anna was preparing to march against them with augmented forces, with the determination to wipe them off the face of the earth. The dictator had been stung by the crushing defeat his army had received at the hands of the colonists. He was smarting to teach the revolutionists a lesson in his military methods at usurpation.

Through his wiley art as a political strategist, he had awakened a sentiment among the Mexicans all over the Republic, as well as in Cohahuila, that Texas was in revolt against the supreme authority of Mexico, and was trying to overthrow the constitution of 1824, which he had so often and so flagrantly violated in an outrageous manner. He appealed to the

Cohahuilans to aid in suppressing Texas. With his political plans thus laid, the martialed his legions under his trained lieutenants, and at their head started for the Rio Grande under emblazon tri-colors, with the black ensign for his standard in battle, indicating that no quarter would be shown. Indeed, he had already pronounced the Texan patriots traitors and pirates, and ordered them shot down whenever found with arms.

Those who had the safety of Texas in charge knew the coming storm was to be a fierce one, and began to prepare for shelter. Many of the citizens were in favor of adhering to the Constitution of 1824, under which the dual state of Cohahuila and Texas was formed, and fighting for their rights under the privileges declared in it. Others were more outspoken for independence as a free and Independent Republic. Among this number were some of their most intrepid leaders in the former victories; and Stephen Austin, who had been sent as a delegate to the United States, and who had a good opportunity to watch the pulse of the people of the greater confederation.

Open demonstration had been made in favor of independence at Goliad, Texana and San Augustine. The war cry was being heralded all over the colonies for independence. That the Anglo-American colonists were so different in constitution, habits, religion and education from the Mexican, that no congeniality existed among them, and all their ideas and principles on form of government were diagonally at points; and so long as they remained under one form of government discord would reign supreme. Under this strained situation of affairs, appeals had been sent to their friends in the United States for assistance in money and men; and those appeals were not in vain, for some funds had been raised in many places and sent to the credit of the Texans. Volunteer companies were being raised in many parts of Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana, in many instances the companies equipping them-

selves and paying their own transportation, offered their services to the Texas authorities.

In January, 1836, Stephen F. Austin, then in New Orleans, concluded a loan of $250,000 for the support of the Texas army and navy, Texas having bought two or three small vessels and fitted them out for war. As Santa Anna called them "pirates." The loan was granted to Texas on the full understanding that the convention of delegates to assemble the 1st of March, 1836, would declare for absolute independence, and Austin wrote his views thus: "Should a Declaration of Independence be made, there ought to be no limits prescribed on the south, west or northwest. The field should be left open for extending beyond the Rio Grande to Chihuahua and New Mexico."

Perhaps a fellow-feeling made them intensely bold. All felt that blood was thicker than water, and believed that in absolute straits, appeals to the United States government would not be in vain. Remembering with warm hearts, heated from firesides of revolutionary sires, that vigilance was the price of freedom and personal independence, all were directing their steps in the same pathway of kinship against tyranny and oppression of usurpers.

Everything indicated that when the convention of delegates met on the 1st of March, 1836, a resolution for the free and independent government of Texas would be passed. With the discussions attending the accomplishment of these happy results, we are not to deal in recording the events herein.

The Governor and council of safety of Texas had appointed General Sam Houston commander-in-chief of the Texas forces, and had commissioned him to negotiate with the Indian tribes in Texas border for friendly relations.

The same council advised "the immediate reduction of the town of Matamoras and its dependencies, together with all places on or near the Rio Grande."

This move was thought advisable to carry their operations

on in the enemy's country, or conclude an honorable and advantageous peace; for peace the colonists longed for, but oppression they would not bear. This bold and strategic movement was suggested by P. Dimit, who was then commandant of Goliad, in December 1835. By this movement it was proposed to secure, by the capture of Matamoras, the large revenues of that port, amounting to more than $100,000 monthly.

This town was a great commercial center, shipping large quantities of stores to the interior of Mexico, and receiving in return large shipments of gold and silver bars. Colonel Fannin, the government agent, announced an expedition to the west, and ordered the volunteers from Bexar, Goliad, Velasco and other points, to rendezvous at San Patricio, between the 24th and 27th of January, 1836, and report to the officer in command.

Colonel Francis W. Johnson, who commanded at the siege of San Antonio de Bexar, after General Burleson, was authorized by the government to lead the volunteers in the projected enterprise.

On January 1st, 200 of the volunteers stationed at San Antonio de Bexar had marched for Goliad, on their way to San Patricio, under the command of Colonel (Doctor) Grant. On the next day a meeting of part of the garrison had been held, and resolutions passed approving of Lieutenant Colonel Neil as commander, in the absence of Colonel Johnson; and declaring it "highly essential that the existing army should remain in Bexar."

This declaration was in condemnation of the movement against Matamoras, which would leave San Antonio defenseless.

Hence, the movement against Matamoras was abandoned by Neil, and some misunderstanding among the leaders having arisen, nearly all the men under Colonel Grant abandoned him learning that his object was plunder, and joined the force at

Goliad, while Grant, being joined by some twenty men under Johnson, proceeded on a foray for horses and cattle in the direction of Matamoras.

On the 1st of February, the very day that the election was held for delegates to the general convention to be held at Washington, on the Brazos, 1st of March, General Santa Anna set out from Saltillo, in Cohahuik., on his route to the Rio Grande, where an army of 8,000 of the best disciplined men was to be assembled for the purpose of invading Texas and driving every American colonist bevond the Sabine.

Santa Anna's confidential adviser was his aide-de-camp, Colonel Almonte, whose former visit to the colonies in 1834 gave him advices favorable to strategic movements amongst the colonists. Second in command to Santa Anna was General Vicinte Filisola (by birth an Italian), a veteran of the Mexican revolution. Attached to the army were also Generals Sesma, Urrea, Gaona, Tolsa, Andrade, Woll and Cos, the last of whom dishonorably violated the conditions of his parole made with General Burleson at the capture of San Antonio de Bexar: "That they would not in any way oppose the re-establishment of the Federal Constitution of 1824." The artillery train was unusually large, including mortars, and was commanded by Colonel Ampudia. The engineer in charge was Colonel Louis Tola.

There was an immense amount of baggage, with several thousand mules and horses for transportation, and a vast amount of ordnance stores. Indeed, all the preparations were on a grand scale, that contrasted strangely with the hosts before whom battle was to be made and war waged.

Every effort had been made by the wiley Santa Anna to inflame the Indian tribes on the north to renewed hostilities against the settlers, as well as specially appealing to the envoys of the United States to completely control the neutrality of their government, and prevent aid and compact to the colonists of Texas. The Mexican consul at New Orleans gave public notice, by di-

rection of his government, that the Mexican government had declared that armed foreigners landing on the coast of the Republic, or invading its territory by land, being citizens of no nation with which Mexico was at war, would be deemed pirates and dealt with as such, and that a like punishment would be awarded to all foreigners who should introduce, either by land or sea, arms or ammunition of any kind for the use of the rebels.

The United States had in like manner issued instructions to its officers and agents to observe strict neutrality between the parties concerned, and to let no violations of the neutral compact go by unpunished.

But like in all struggles where freemen are engaged against tyrants, when liberty is suppressed by oppression, the heart of the American beats quick and fierce to engage in the struggle for justice and right. So now, the volunteer vans began to arrive on Texas soil and fall into line under the command of the Texas officers.

The arrival of small bands of patriots armed for the fray was a brilliant incentive to the nerves of the patriotic Texans, who received their coming with shouts of joy and promised to share their fate, and in event of victory, to share their lovely land and its broad domain.

So every brave heart became a Texan when landing on the fertile soil. As in after years, those who seek her climate, are to the manor born.

On the 12th of February, 1836, General Santa Anna arrived at the Rio Grande, where he halted until the 16th. Early in February Don Placido Benevides, a Mexican Federalist, informed Colonel Fannin, through the colonists at San Patricio, that the Mexican troops from Matamoras, over 2000 strong, were gathering rapidly in all directions. The whole country was given up to the troops, and the most atrocious outrages were perpetrated on the inoffensive people of the country. Colonel Fannin wrote to the Provisional Government at San Filipe, giving in

detail the dispatch from San Patricio, and urged the colonists to arouse from their apathy; that the foe was upon our soil and at our very door.

He had sent a detachment to San Patricio to bring off the artillery, and ordered a concentration of the troops at Goliad, and he intended to provide for the defense of that post and San Antonio de Bexar, and keeping open a communication with the colonists. In conclusion he said: "Let me implore you to lose no time and spare no expense in spreading these tidings throughout Texas, and ordering out the militia in mass, and spare us, in God's name, from elections in camp—organize at home and march forward in order. * * * Look well to our coast. Now is the time to use our small navy, and that to advantage, and unless soon afloat, we may fear the worst."

Another communication, dated February 16th, was received by the government council from Fannin, in which he informed them that the enemy intended to enter the country in three divisions, one to take San Antonio de Bexar, under Generals Sesma, Filisola and Cos; one against Goliad, under Urrea, and the third under Santa Anna himself, which, after aiding, if required, in the reduction of San Antonio de Bexar and Goliad, was to proceed directly into the heart of the colonies.

He requested them to send from twelve to fifteen hundred men immediately to Bexar, with plenty of provisions, and from five to eight hundred to Goliad, and then with an army of reserves on the Colorado, all would be well. "Go ahead, rely on yourselves and the aims of your men. No aid need be expected from the Mexicans."

"General Santa Anna moved from the Rio Grande on the 16th, and at half past twelve o'clock on the 23d of February, 1836, halted on the heights of the Alazan, three miles west of San Antonio de Bexar. The whole of the invading army was ordered to concentrate at this place, with the exception of a division under General Urrea, which had marched from Matamoras

for San Patricio and Goliad. At two o'clock, according to Colonel Almonti's journal, the Mexican army resumed its march, the President and his staff in the van.

"The enemy, as soon as the march of the division was seen, hoisted the tri-colored (Mexican) flag, with two stars, designed to represent Cohahuila and Texas. The President, with all his staff, advanced to the burying ground (now San Fernando cemetery). The enemy lowered his flag and fled, and Bexar was occupied without firing a shot.

"At 3 o'clock p. m. the enemy filed off to the fort of the Alamo, where there were some pieces of artillery, among them one eighteen pounder. It appeared they had 150 men."

The Texas forces in the Alamo were under the command of Colonel Wm. Barrett Travis, assisted by Colonels James Bowie and Davy Crockett. When the fort was invested and the siege began, Travis wrote a dispatch to the executive council at San Filipe and sent it by special courier, asking for men and munitions of war.

In another letter of 24th Travis avowed his determination never to surrender or retreat, though the enemy threatened to put the garrison to the sword unless they surrendered at discretion. And if no rescue came he was determined to sustain himself as long as possible and die like a soldier, who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country.

On the 3d of March Travis wrote his last letter to the President of the convention at Washington, on the Brazos, and the last letter to the living world, which appeals to the hearts of all men. When he penned it he did not know that the Convention of Texas patriots had on the day before proclaimed to all the world by solemn resolutions the independence of Texas, and that the single star should forever float in the colors of her standard. If so, Travis would have died truly a happier man. We give his letter place in this brief sketch, showing the events surrounding the besieged from the 25th of February to the 3d of March:

"From the 25th to the present date the enemy have kept up a bombardment from two howitzers (one a five and a half inch and the other an eight inch), and a heavy cannonade from two long nine pounders mounted on a battery on the opposite side of the river, at the distance of four hundred yards from our walls. During this period the enemy have been busily employed in encircling us with intrenched encampments at the following distances: In Bexar, 400 yards west; in La Villeta, 300 yards south; at the powder house 1000 yards east by south; on the ditch, 800 yards northeast, and at the old mill, 800 yards north. Notwithstanding all this, a company of thirty-two men from Gonzales made their way to us on the morning of the 1st inst. at 3 o'clock, and Colonel J. B. Bonham (a courier from the same place), got in this morning at 11 o'clock.

"I have so fortified the place that the walls are generally proof against cannon balls, and I still continue to intrench in the inside and strengthen the walls by throwing up earth. At least 200 shells have fallen inside our walls without having injured a single man. Indeed, we have been so fortunate as not to lose a man from any cause, and we have killed many of the enemy. The spirits of my men are still high, although they have much to depress them.

"Colonel Fannin is said to be on the march to this place with reinforcements, but I fear it is not true, as I have repeatedly sent to him for aid without receiving any. Colonel Bonham, my special messenger, arrived at La Bahia (Goliad) fourteen days ago with a request for aid, and on the arrival of the enemy in Bexar I sent an express to Colonel Fannin, which reached Goliad on the next day, urging him to send on reinforcements. None have yet arrived. I look to the colonies alone for aid; unless it arrives soon, I shall have to fight the enemy on his own terms. I will, however, do the best I can under the circumstances, and I feel confident that the determined spirit and desperate courage heretofore evinced by my men, will not fail them in the last struggle,

and although they may be sacrificed to the vengeance of a Gothic enemy, the victory will cost that enemy so dear that it will be worse than a defeat.

"I hope your honorable body will hasten on reinforcements, ammunition and provisions for twenty days for the men we have; our supply of ammunition is limited. At least 500 pounds of cannon powder and 200 rounds of six, nine and twelve and eighteen pound balls; ten kegs of rifle powder and a supply of lead should be sent to this place without delay under a sufficient guard.

"If these things are promptly sent, and large reinforcements are hastened to this frontier, this neighborhood will be the great and decisive battle ground.

"The power of Santa Anna is to be met here or in the colonies; we had better meet it here than to suffer a war of desolation to rage in our settlements. A blood-red banner waves from the church of Bexar, and in the camp above us, in token that the war is one of vengeance against rebels; they have declared us as such, and demand that we should surrender at discretion, or this garrison should be put to the sword. Their threats have no influence on me or my men, but to make all fight with desperation, and with that high-souled courage which characterizes the patriot, who is willing to die in defense of his country's liberty and his own honor.

"The citizens of this municipality are all our enemies, except those who joined us heretofore; we have but three Mexicans in the fort. Those who have not joined us in this extremity should be declared public enemies, and their property should aid in defraying the expenses of the war. The bearer of this will give your honorable body a statement more in detail, should he escape through the enemy's lines. God and Texas! Victory or Death!!"

Perhaps it would be well to give to the reader the version from the enemy's side of the transactions of the siege and in-

vestments from the 24th of February up to the 4th of March, which are given in extracts from Colonel Almonte's journal, the aide-de-camp of Santa Anna, and one of the most enlightened and intelligent officers in the Mexican army, and who spoke English fluently:

"Thursday, 25th. The firing from our batteries was commenced early. The general-in-chief, with the battalion de Cazadores, crossed the river and posted themselves in the Alamo, that is to say, in the house near the fort. A new fortification was commenced by us near the house of McMullen. In the random firing the enemy wounded four of the Cazadores de Matamoras battalion, and two of the battalion of Ximines, and killed one corporal and a soldier of the battalion of Matamoras. Our fire ceased in the afternoon. In the night two batteries were erected by us on the other side of the river, in the Alameda of the Alamo; the battalion of Matamoras was also posted there, and the cavalry was posted on the hills to the east of the enemy and in the road from Gonzales at the Casa Mata Antiqua. At half-past eleven at night we retired. The enemy in the night burnt the straw and wooden houses in their vicinity, but did not attempt to set fire with their guns to those in our rear. A strong north wind commenced at nine at night.

"Friday, 26th. The northern wind continued very strong; the thermometer fell to 39 degrees, and during the rest of the day remained at 60 degrees. At daylight there was a slight skirmish between the enemy and a small party of the division of the east, under command of General Sesma. During the day the firing from our cannon was continued. The enemy did not reply except now and then. At night the enemy burnt the small houses near the parapet of the battalion of San Luis, on the other side of the river. Some sentinels were advanced. In the course of the day the enemy sallied out for wood and water, and were opposed by our marksmen. The northern wind continues.

"Saturday, 27th. Lieutenant Meuchard was sent with a

party of men for corn, cattle and hogs to the farms of Seguin and Flores. It was determined to cut off the water from the enemy on the side next the old mill. There was little firing from either side during the day. The enemy worked hard all day to repair some intrenchments. In the afternoon the President was observed by the enemy and fired at. In the night a courier was dispatched to Mexico informing the government of the taking of Bexar.

"Sunday, 28th. News received that a reinforcement of 200 men was coming to the enemy by the road from La Bahia. The cannonading was continued.

"Monday, 29th. In the afternoon the Battalion of Allende took post at the east of the Alamo. The President reconnoitered. At midnight General Sesma left the camp with the Cavalry of Dolores and the infantry of Allende to meet the enemy coming from Bahia to the relief of the Alamo.

"Tuesday, March 1st. Early in the morning General Sesma wrote from the Mission Espada that there was no enemy, or traces of any, to be discovered. The cavalry and infantry returned to camp. At twelve o'clock the President went out to reconnoiter the mill site to the northwest of the Alamo. Colonel Ampudia was commissioned to construct more trenches. In the afternoon the enemy fired two twelve-pound shots at the house of the President, one of which struck it.

"Wednesday, 2d. * * * The President discovered in the afternoon a covered road within pistol shot of the Alamo, and posted the Battalion of Ximines there.

"Thursday, 3d. The enemy fired a few cannon and musket shot at the city. I wrote to Mexico, directing my letters to be sent to Bexar—that before three months the campaign would be ended. The general-in-chief went out to reconnoiter. A battery was erected on the north of the Alamo, within pistol shot. Official dispatches were received from Urrea, announcing that he had routed the colonists of San Patricio, killing sixteen and tak-

ing twenty-one prisoners. The bells were rung. The Battalion of Zapadores, Aldama and Toluca arrived. The enemy attempted a sally in the night, at sugar mill, but were repulsed by our advance.

"Friday, 4th. Commenced firing early, which the enemy did not return. In the afternoon one or two shots were fired by them. A meeting of generals and colonels was held. After a long conference Cos, Costrillion and others were of the opinion that the Alamo should be assaulted after the arrival of two twelve pounders, expected on the 7th inst. The President, Generals Ramirez, Sesma and myself, were of opinion that the twelve pounders should not be waited for, but the assault made. In this state things remained, the general not coming to any definite resolution."

Reinforcements were arriving daily to Santa Anna, until his force at San Antonio de Bexar amounted to more than 7000 men, well supplied with all the munitions of war.

Travis and his brave band of patriots were cooped up in the confines of the Alamo, barricaded and cut off from all supplies of wood and water.

Their constant strain of watching night and day, for Santa Anna had his bugle to sound the charge every half hour during the night time, well wore down the physical energies of the little garrison, but did not blur their spirits. Poor Bowie had been previously wounded and was suffering from that and a high fever, and was in one room of the Alamo, attended by Mrs. Dickinson and an old Mexican woman, his nurse, Madam Candelara.*

On the 5th every indication of the enemy pointed that the Alamo would be stormed at any moment; every man was on duty and ready to do or die. It is stated that Colonel Travis, with drawn sword, marked the line across the rude floor of the

* Mdm. Candelara now lives in the city of San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 112 years, and has given many incidents of the attack and the results.

Alamo and asked all the garrison who would fight till death with him, to step across the Dead Line. Tapley Holland was one of the first to flit across. Then all marched over except one, Rose, who was deeply affected at the action of his companions.

He stood till every man but himself had crossed the line. He sank to the ground in silent reverie. He spoke the Mexican language well. He thought if he could once escape the confines of the walls he might easily escape the lines. He cast a longing look at Colonel Bowie, then to all his comrades. When Bowie exclaimed: "You seem not to be willing to die with us, Rose?" "No," he replied, "I am not ready to die," and with the word he scaled the walls of the Alamo, and turning to take a last look at his companions he heeded no more. He dropped down and took the route to the river and made his escape, and in a few hours heard the cannons' awful roar and the musketry's rattle that sealed the fate of his brave compatriots.

Colonel Bowie could not walk. He raised up on his elbows on his couch and cried out, "Carry me over, too, comrades, we'll all die together."

A more pathetic story was never told; a more heroic picture was never drawn by artist's brush, or in the brain of man.

Now let loose the dogs of war, and let pandemonium reign; posterity will mark the spot where such heroes are slain.

Soon after midnight on the 6th of March, 1836, and before the matin hymns of the earliest songsters of the brush, the Mexican army, commanded by Santa Anna in person, with the black and red banner of death by the sword floating over his legions, surrounded the fort for the purpose of taking it by storm, cost what it might. The infantry formed in a circle, the cavalry in a line behind for the double object of pushing them on in the charge and preventing the escape of the Texans.

Santa Anna had issued his final order to all the officers of his command, minutely instructing his best infantry companies to lead the charge.

His order says in part: "The first column will be provided with ten scaling ladders, two cross bars and two axes; the second will be provided with the same quantity; the third with six and the fourth with two. The men carrying the ladders will sling guns over their shoulders, so as to leave them entirely free to place their ladders wherever they may be directed. Grenadiers and cavalry companies will be supplied with six packages of cartridges to the man, and to the infantry companies four, with two extra flints. The latter will be encumbered with neither overcoats, blankets nor anything which will impede the rapidity of their movements. During the day all caps will be provided with chin straps. Corps commanders will pay particular attention to this provision, and are also required to see that the men are provided with shoes or other covering for their feet.

"The men composing the attacking column will retire to rest at sundown, preparatory to moving at midnight. * * * Arms, particularly bayonets, will be put in the best condition. When the moon rises the riflemen of the San Louis battalion of volunteers will retire to their quarters, abandoning the points they cover along the line so as to give them time to put their equipage in readiness. The cavalry, under the command of General Don Joaquin Ramirez Y. Sesma, will occupy the Alameda, and saddle up at 3 o'clock in the morning. It will be their duty to watch the camp and prevent the escape of any one who may attempt to do so.

"The honor of the nation and of the army being involved in this contest against the daring foreigners in our front, his excellency, the general-in-chief, expects that each man will perform his duty and contribute his share in securing a day of glory to his country and of honor to the Federal Government, which knows how to honor the brave men of the army of operation who shall distinguish themselves by performing feats of valor."

Before daylight the Mexicans advanced towards the Alamo,

amidst the sounding of bugle's charge, the wild yells of the advancing horde and discharge of musketry and cannon.

They were thrice repulsed in their attempt to scale the walls by the well-directed shots of the Texans.

Again they were impelled to the charge by the exertions of their officers, until they were borne onward by the pressure from behind. They mounted the walls with scaling ladders and tumbled pell-mell into the vortex of destruction. Travis was on the outer wall cheering on his men, when he received a shot and fell mortally wounded. A Mexican officer rushed forward to dispatch him, when Travis, summoning up all his heroic energies, met his assailant with a thrust of his sword and both expired together.

Charge on charge came faster; the clarion notes of the bugle's charge were sounded incessantly. The red fire of battle is kept up for five long hours amid the slaughter of death.

The last final charge is made, the whole force is brought to bear, the lines are pushed to the front, the walls are scaled. Ammunition of the besieged all gone—a hand-to-hand struggle ensues; guns as clubs, swords and bowie knives cut the red gashes in deep; slaughter—pandemonium reigns supreme—the vortex of hell is opened. All but seven are slain; they take refuge in one corner of the fort and the last sad struggle is had. Major Evans of the artillery was shot down and riddled with bayonets while in the act of blowing up the magazine in the Alamo, which had been ordered by Colonel Travis in the last extremity. Colonel Bowie was butchered on his bed and hoisted on the bayonets and his remains savagely mutilated.

"Among the slain there was one who, surrounded by a heap of the fallen enemy, displayed even in death the freshness of the hunter's aspect, and whose eccentricities, real or reputed, have familiarized the whole world with his name—Davy Crockett of Tennessee; a character such as could only have been pro-

duced and perfected within the limits of his own country. The whole man, physical and mental, was of frontier growth.

"His playthings from infancy were the axe and the rifle. Few among his youthful companions displayed more activity and strength; none aimed his piece with a steadier hand or truer eye."*

The rudest form of sepulture was denied the dead. Their bodies were stripped, mutilated and carried out on the Alameda

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* Crockett came from Tennessee to Texas in 1835, with twelve volunteers, who shared his fate. He was in a manner embittered, but of fine native sense. He met with reverses in fortune. He was elected three times to the United States Congress from his West Tennessee District, and filled his station there with credit to himself and country. He won for himself the great appellation: "Know you are right, and then go ahead." When he was defeated for Congress, the last race he run, 1835, he was determined to leave Tennessee and seek new fields in Texas. He became chagrined over his defeat for Congress, and wrote his recollectons of the same in epic verse, the only poetry he ever wrote. He said:

"Farewell to my country!
I fought for thee well,
When the savage rushed forth
Like the demons from hell.

In peace or in war
I have stood by thy side—
My country for thee, I have
Lived, would have died.

But I am now cast off,
My career is now run,
And I wander abroad
Like the prodigal Son:

Where the wild savage roves,
And the broad prairies spread,
The fallen, deposed,
Will again go ahead."

Again he wrote: "He who commences the world with a general love for mankind, and suffers his feelings to dictate to his reason, runs a great hazard of reaping a plentiful harvest of ingratitude, and of closing a tedious existence of misanthropy."

hard by and thrown into a heap and burned. After the flames died out some kinder hands took the charred remains and ashes and buried them.

Thus did 176 men for thirteen days repel the onslaughts of an army of 7000 men, and in the attacks killing more than 2000 of the enemy and wounding more than 500, showing the deadly aim and desperate struggle made by the "Defenders of the Alamo."

The charge began at 4 o'clock in the morning and lasted till 9 o'clock, and for five long hours Travis and his brave compatriots held back a foe far more savage than that which confronted Leonidas and his Spartan braves.

But "Thermopylae had her messengers of defeat, the Alamo had none."

In later years some kind sympathizers erected a monument of stone to the immortal dead who fell in the Alamo. The inscriptions on this feeble shaft are:

"To the God of the Fearless and the Free is Dedicated this Altar of the Alamo.

Blood of Heroes Hath Stained Me.

Let the Stones of the Alamo Speak

That Their Immolation be Not Forgotten.

Be They Enrolled With Leonidas in the Host of the Mighty Dead.

Thermopylae Had Her Messengers of Defeat—The Alamo had None."

More lasting than brass or marble, which the beating rains and driving snows cannot destroy, and through which the paens of glory can be sung for all time—the anthem of their chivalry. The beautiful ode was composed in their memory by Captain R. M. Potter, U. S. A., retired, entitled, "Hymn of the Alamo":

HYMN OF THE ALAMO.

"Rise! Man the wall!
Our clarion's blast now sounds the final reveille;
This dawning morn must be the last
Our fated band shall ever see.
To life, but not to hope, farewell:
Your trumpet's clang, and cannon's peal,
And storming shout, and clash of steel
Is our's, but not our country's knell.
Welcome the Spartan's death—
'Tis no despairing strife—
We fall, we die, but our expiring breath
Is freedom's breath of life.
Here on this new Thermopylae
Our monument shall tower on high,
And 'Alamo' hereafter be
On bloodier fields the battle cry.'
Thus Travis from the rampart cried,
And when his warriors saw the foe,
Like whelming bellows move below,
At once each dauntless heart replied:
'Welcome the Spartan's death—
'Tis no despairing strife—
We fall, we die, but our expiring breath
Is freedom's breath of life.'
They come, like autumn leaves they fall,
Yet hordes on hordes they onward rush;
With gory tramp they mount the wall,
Till numbers the defenders crush;
The last was felled, the fight to gain—
Well may the ruffians quake to tell
How Travis and his hundred fell
Amid a thousand foemen slain.
They died the Spartan's death,
But not in hopeless strife like brother's died—
And their expiring breath
Was freedom's breath of life."

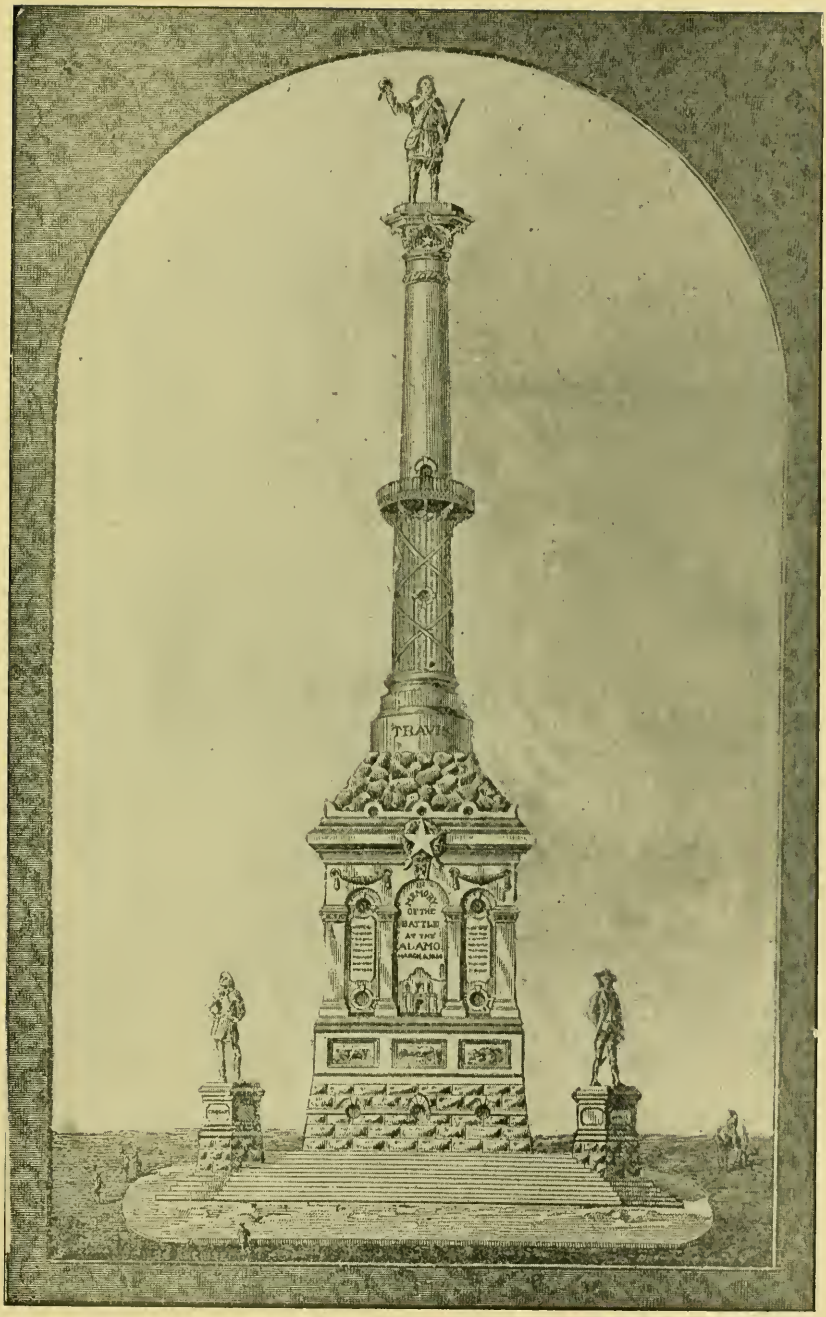
THE SIEGE OF THE ALAMO.

BY JAMES D. LYNCH.

The old world has its glory, and it teems
With storied song and history's golden themes,
Whose notes still tune the living harp of time,
And thrill the patriot's heart in every clime.
But yet the Old World has not all—the New
Can boast of its immortal themes, and view
With pride the glory of many a name
Which it has given to the scroll of fame.
'Mong those full high enrolled, let Texas tell
Of the New World's Leonidas—how fell
Brave Travis, how his comrades at the call
Of glory, fell in one grand, glorious fall.

* * * * * * *

In her far borders, under Bexar's skies,
Where the San Pedro takes its gushing rise,
Bosomed in landscapes of Elysian beam,
A fortress nestled near the emerald stream;
Where orisons were wont to make the day,
But now the ensanguined scene of mortal fray.
Within its walls a chapel reared its shrine;
Around them Mexic demons drew their line,
While Travis and his Texans held the post,
Defiant of the fierce besieging host.
The thundering cannon swept the crimson ground,
While volleying muskets poured their hail around;
The vengeful missiles charged the fortress walls,
Its little windows rained a shower of balls.
Seven thousand men came on in curved array:
Less than two hundred held the force at bay.
Ten days and nights they reeled and staggered back,
Two hundred men, less twenty, aimed in front and fired,
Two hundred men, less forty, faced about and fired;
One hundred men, less twenty, faced to right and fired,
One hundred men, less forty, faced to left and fired,
Then forty men faced all around and fired,
And front, right, left and rear the foe retired.
Now twenty men received the last assault,
And caused the decimated foe to halt.
But stemming now the dwindling fusilade,



MONUMENT TO THE DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO.

And overleaping scrap and palisade,
They thronged the walls, and through the breaches poured;
And yet the Lone Star banner was not lowered.
Within one thing remained, all else was lost—
To barter life for death at dearest cost.
"Blow up the fort!" undaunted Travis cried;
"Blow up the fort!" he gasped in death and died.
A faithful soldier hastened to obey,
But fell before the deed could crown the day.
With mutual death the unequal combat end,
A friend and foe in one blank ruin blend.
Within the breach the last heroic ten
Now meet the enemy—devoted men!
One moment more, one breath, one flash, now five
Alone of all those martyrs were alive—
Now four, now three, now two, now one, now none—
The Alamo's red murderous work was done.

* * * * * * *

Live on, grow old, thou glorious Alamo!
Grow old in age, for thou canst never grow
Too old for fame, its wreaths will cling to thee,
Thou New World's glorious Thermopylae!
Live on, speak on, of heralds thou hast none,
Thy tale is all thy own; but the bright sun
Was witness of thy struggle, morning, noon
And in the evening shade the stars and moon
Beheld thee, and their pale, condoling beams
Yet mantle thee with still more wierd dreams.
Thy very walls have voices, solemn tones,
And spirits pulse their breathing in thy stones;
Not moans, for I place to them my ears
I hear the echo of Jacinto's cheers.
On! On! Revenge the Alamo!
Freedom and victory over every foe.
Live on, speak on, thou glorious Alamo,
In living strains proclaim thy tale of woe,
And let thy widowed walls to Texas tell
How her immortal heroes fought and fell,
And in obedience to her sacred laws,
But love of freedom and of freedom's cause.
Speak on, while eons roll their ages by,
And tell all Texans how to live and die.

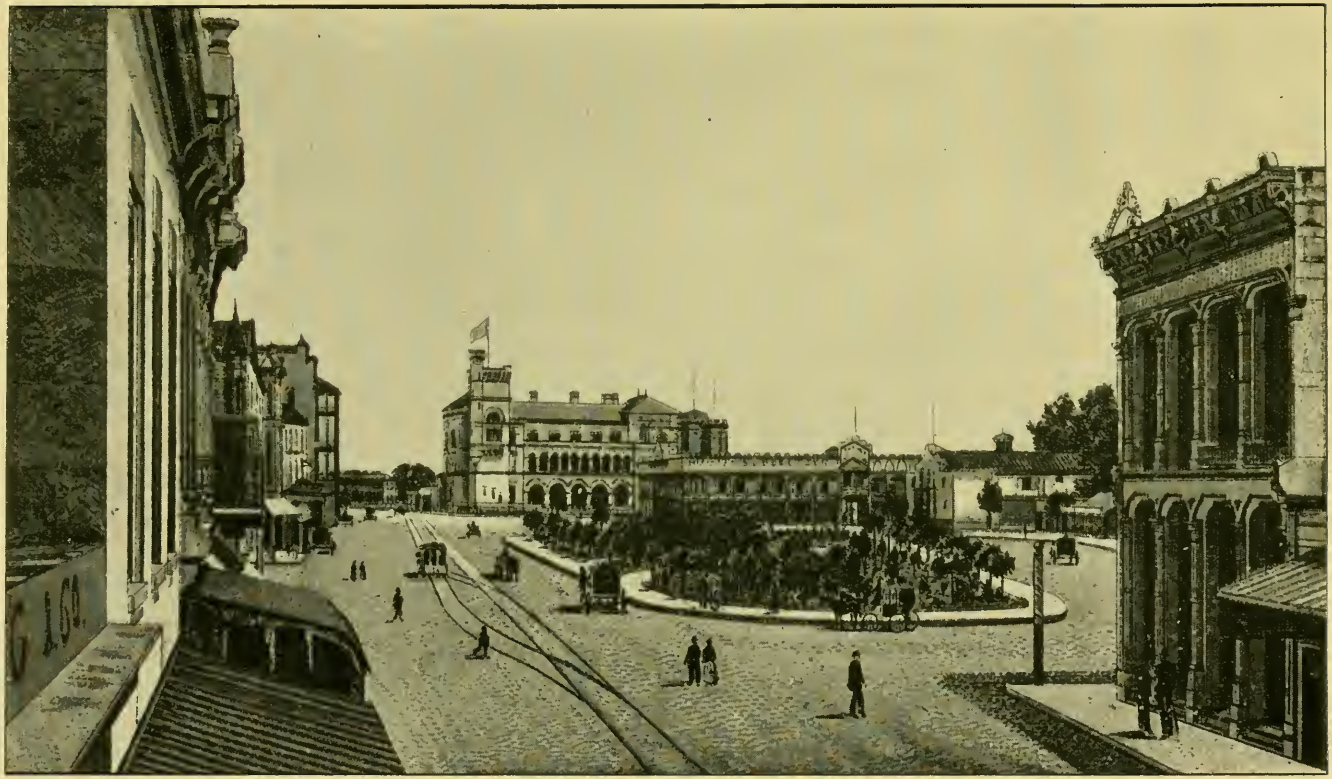
CHAPTER IV.

Texas Independence Proclaimed—The Annulment of Land Grants by Convention—Provision for Bounty in Lands for Military Services—Forces Under Fannin at Goliad—Houston's Order to Evacuate—Urrea's March on to Refugio—Fannin's Scouts Captured—Evacuation and Retreat Towards Victoria—Fight on the Colito—Surrender of Fannin—Massacre at Goliad of Fannin and His Men.

On the 2d of March, 1836, the convention assembled at Washington on the Brazos, agreed unanimously to a declaration of independence. After setting forth their grievances against Mexico, and the misrule and tryanny of the government towards the colonists, the declaration concludes: "These and other grievances were patiently borne by the people of Texas until they reached that point at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue. We then took up arms in defense of the national constitution.

"We appealed to our Mexican brethren for assistance; our appeal has been made in vain. Though months have elapsed, no sympathetic response has yet been heard from the interior. We are consequently forced to the melancholy conclusion that the Mexican people have acquiesced in the destruction of their liberty, and the substitution thereof of a military government; that they are unfit to be free, and incapable of self-government. The necessity of self-preservation now decrees our eternal political separation.

"We, therefore, the delegates, with plenary powers, of the people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to a candid world for the necessities of our condition, do hereby re-



THE ALAMO PLAZA. LOOKING NORTH.

solve and declare that our political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended, and that the people of Texas do now constitute a Free, Sovereign and Independent Republic, and are fully invested with all the rights and attributes which properly belong to independent states; and conscious of the rectitude of our intentions, we fearlessly and confidently commit the issue to the decision of the Supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations."

Under the ordinances of the convention, passed 16th March, 1836, David G. Burnet was appointed the first President of the Republic, Lorenzo de Zavala Vice President, Colonel S. P. Carson Secretary of State, Bailey Hardiman Secretary of the Treasury, Colonel Thos. J. Ruske Secretary of War, Colonel Robert Potter Secretary of the Navy, David Thomas Attorney General, J. R. Jones Postmaster General. During the sitting of the convention the illegal land sales of the legislature of Cohahuila and Texas to lands in Texas and the claims of volunteers from the United States came under consideration. The convention declared null and void the grants to more than eleven hundred leagues of land granted to General John F. Mason, of New York, and other foreign holders, besides all eleven league grants made within twenty leagues of the boundary between Texas and the United States.

The convention fixed a liberal bounty in lands to volunteers in addition to their pay and rations: To all in service and who should continue in service faithfully during the war, 1280 acres of land; to all who had served, or should serve faithfully for a period of not less than six months, 640 acres; to all who had served not less than three months, 320 acres; to all who should enter the service previous to the first of July, and continue to serve faithfully during the war, provided the war endured for a period of more than six months, 960 acres; to the lawful heirs of all volunteers as had fallen, or might fall in the contest with the Mexican government, or who had died or might die from any

accident while in the service of the country during the war, the amounts which would have been due the deceased under the colonization laws, had he survived, namely, to married man, one league and labor (4604 acres); for single man, one-third of a league (1467 acres), and the said heir or heirs should also receive, in addition to the land thus granted, a bounty of 460 acres, as decreed by the council at San Felipe on 11th December, 1835.*

After the fall of the Alamo, the whole of the auxiliary voluntary army of Texas did not amount to much over 400 men, who were under Fannin at Goliad. The men who had whipped the Mexicans in the campaign of 1835, and won the signal victory at the storming of Bexar, did not display the same zeal to hurl back the invader.

The country was being overrun. The army was massing at various points for conquest. Many who had families were endeavoring to put the defenseless ones beyond the reach of the foe.

But Travis and Fannin had sounded the tocsin of war faithfully; they had viewed the surroundings from a strong military standpoint, which placed their military sagacity equal to any of the enlightened age. So fully were they convinced that the enemy should be met and conquered at San Antonio de Bexar and Goliad, and that their patriotic friends would rally to their defense at such points, they held out to the last in defense of their post till death came to their relief.

While Santa Anna was concentrating his forces at Bexar, General Urrea was proceeding with his forces along the lower line at Goliad.

Colonels Johnson and Grant, of whom mention has heretofore been made, made incursions into the enemy's lines, and were surprised by the Mexicans and all but Johnson and another killed. These two effected their escape.

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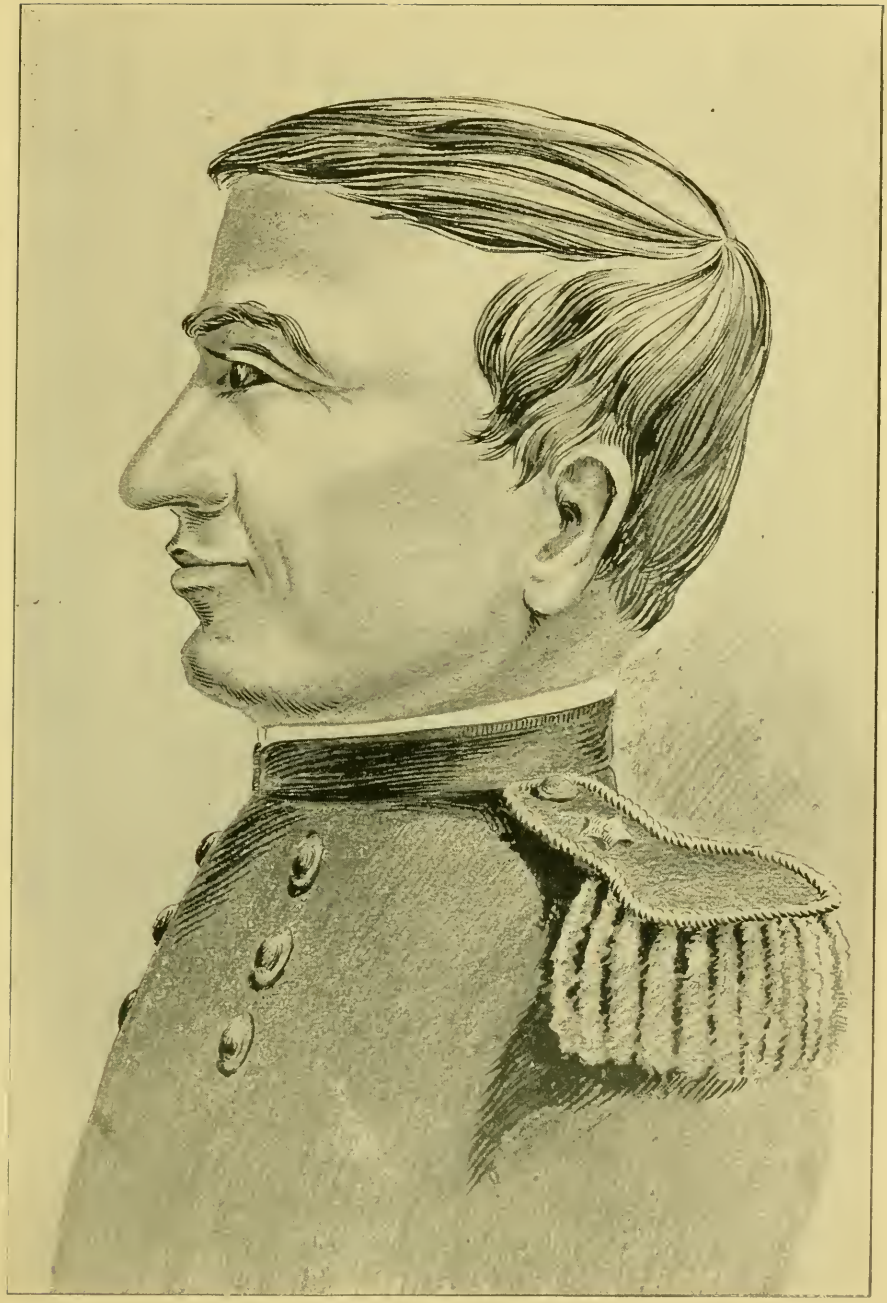
* Spanish or Mexican land measure: One league, 4.428 acres. One labor, 177 acres. One mile square, 640 acres. One vara, 33 1-3 inches.



GEN'L SANTA ANNA.

The commander-in-chief, General Houston, had early in March established his headquarters at Gonzales, where his whole strength did not consist of over 300 men, some without guns and poorly equipped. Hearing of the fall of the Alamo and the fate of its heroic garrison, he retired on the 10th from the Guadalupe river to the Colorado, to obtain reinforcements and supplies. He destroyed all the immovable property at Gonzales.

Orders were dispatched by General Houston to Colonel Fannin, directing him to abandon Goliad and fall back to Victoria. Unfortunately for Fannin and his men, these orders were not obeyed in time. Fannin having heard of the advance of the Mexican forces on the Mission of Refugio, he ordered Captain King with a detachment of fourteen men to remove some helpless families to a place of safety.

When King approached Refugio, he found himself in the presence of the enemy. After baffling around quite a time, night came on, and he became bewildered and lost his way, and when daylight came he was in sight of the enemy, ammunition wet; he had no other remedy but surrender. He and all his men were taken by Urrea and shot within six hours, save one that had been mortally wounded in the fight.

A courier sent out by Fannin to hasten the return of the detachment shared same fate. No tidings from King, Fannin sent out another and larger detachment towards Refugio, composed of the battalion of Lieutenant Colonel Ward, the second in command at Goliad. Ward had two engagements with the enemy. In the first he was victorious. In the second he was overpowered and forced to surrender.

Fannin's original force consisted of not more than 480 men, his numbers being so thinned out, and being opposed by Urrea's division of over two thousand well equipped regulars, was in danger of being overwhelmed.

An urgent order from General Houston, calling on Colonel Fannin to evacuate Goliad, reached him on March 14th, 1836.

Captain Horton had been sent out to reconnoiter, and found the forces of Urrea fast encircling them.

He and other officers advised Fannin to evacuate Goliad without delay, while they had some hope of joining forces with General Houston.

Still hoping that Ward would come in, who led a volunteer battalion from Georgia, Fannin, being also a Georgian, lingered until the morning of the 18th, when early the advance guard under Horton led the van. Some wanted the cannon left, as it could only be moved by oxen. Fannin replied, "No, my cannon must go with me. I expect a fight, and I cannot do without them." An eye witness says: "The only American non-combatant residing at Goliad (Mrs. Cash) accompanied the troops in the retreat. It was ten o'clock ere the rear guard had crossed the river (San Antonio), and they hastened towards Victoria, until Fannin, judging it time to give his oxen rest, ordered a halt and had them ungeared for an hour; after which preparations were made for a second move, but alas! * * * Our men saw at a glance that their only hope rested in their courage and decision; and they threw themselves into a hollow square; facing outwards.

"The effect of a piece of artillery, fired against Fannin's orders, satisfied Urrea, who had no cannon on the ground, that to win the day he must come to close quarters; he therefore ordered a charge of cavalry. They galloped in dashing style towards the Texan battery, when they were broken by a discharge from seven pieces. The shock was sudden, they halted, drew up their horses and faltered when encouraged to return to the charge."

A charge and counter charge made by the cavalry, assisted by the infantry, kept up the fight till late at night. Some Campechey Indians with Urrea kept up a murderous sneak firing on the Texans.

The wounded of Fannin's men suffered agonies all night for want of water, and their piteous appeals for aid made it heart-

rending to hear, and discomfited those who had passed unhurt. During the whole night the Mexican general caused his bugles to sound at intervals of five minutes, to keep his troops on the look-out. The Texans threw up temporary works for protection against musketry. But during the night Urrea had been reinforced by 500 fresh troops, with a supply of artillery.

The small entrenchment which Fannin's men threw up during the night was no defense in such extremity. The loss to the enemy on the previous engagements was over 600 men, killed and wounded. Fannin knew the struggle prolonged, would be another Alamo massacre. He hastily called a council of war with his officers, amid the cries of his wounded, begging an armistice that water might be secured for their feverish wounds. Mrs. Cash and her little son went to General Urrea and asked for water. It was then a white flag went up in token of surrender. Immediately afterwards Captains Shackelford and Chadwick, the engineer and adjutant, advanced out on the prairie, and met Urrea, with whom they arranged terms of surrender. Personal safety was guaranteed to every individual. All were to be treated as prisoners of war in civilized warfare, and private property was to be respected.

When Shackelford returned to the battalion and announced the result, the men threw down their arms on the ground, Fannin alone reserving his sword, which he handed to Urrea, who had advanced to receive it.

It was positively maintained by the Texans, and supported by three of the survivors of Fannin's force, that terms of capitulation had been agreed upon and signed by the Mexican and Texan commanders. These terms provided that Fannin and his men should march back to Goliad and detained nine days, when all the volunteers from the United States were to be shipped to New Orleans at the expense of the Mexican government, when Fannin and the colonists under his command were to remain prisoners of war until exchanged or the contest was over.

Santa Anna denied that quarter was ever offered, or a treaty made, and backed his assertion by the following statement from General Urrea's official report:

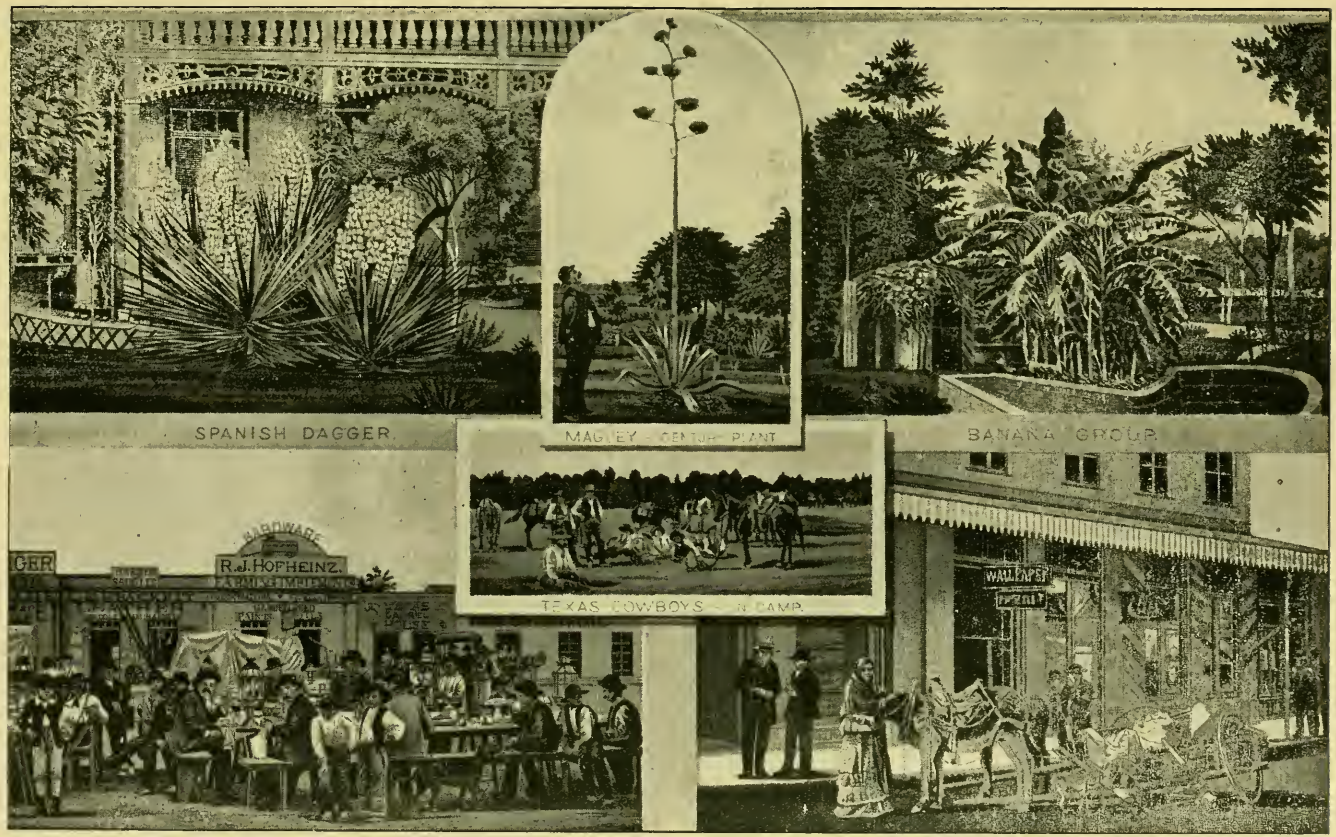
"Being in sight of Goliad (where Fannin was stationed), I was informed that the enemy was on the retreat towards Victoria, which was not perceived before on account of a very thick fog. I immediately followed in pursuit and overtook him at a place called Encinal del Perdido, where we fought him until night. On the next day we received part of our artillery and infantry, with which we continued the action.

"Fannin then, seeing his inevitable loss, hoisted a white flag and sent a paper, written with pencil, containing some articles, offering to surrender if they were guaranteed, etc., to which I answered in the negative, adding that if they did not instantly surrender we would renew the action.

"Fannin then surrenderd and gave up his arms, etc., leaving everything in the possession of General Urrea, who sent the wounded and prisoners to Goliad and proceeded on to Victoria."*

"About 400 Texan prisoners, including those of Ward's detachment, were at the fort of Goliad (the old mission), when General Santa Anna ordered their execution, in accordance, as he afterwards declared, with the law of the Supreme Government. On the morning of the 27th of March these prisoners, with the exception of two or three medical men, who were retained to aid the Mexican wounded, and some privates employed as laborers, were marched out of the fort, ostensibly for the purpose of driving in beeves. They were divided into sections, and each section was under the escort of a strong Mexican guard. After proceeding about 300 yards, they were ordered to halt, and throw off their blankets and knapsacks. Before they had time to obey the order, a fire of musketry was opened upon them, and what the bullets left unfinished the sabers of the cavalry completed.

* Letter dated Velasco, May 26, 1836, signed by General Antonio de Lopez de Santa Anna, to the President of Texas.



CHILI-CON-CARNE, OR MEXICAN SUPPER.

STREET SCENE. "BROKEN DOWN."

A few who were uninjured by the first fire, leaped a fence of brushwood, concealed themselves in a thicket, and swimming the San Antonio river, succeeded in rejoining their countrymen beyond the Colorado.

"Fannin, wounded in the action of the 19th, had been placed apart from his men. Informed of the order of the Mexican commander, he declared himself ready to meet his fate. When he arrived at the appointed shambles, he thrust aside the hand of a soldier who was trying to bind a handkerchief around his head, laid bare his breast and fell."

Most of the bodies were burnt and afterwards, in June following, General Rusk and the Texan troops collected the skeletons and remains and buried them with the honors of war. Never were Spartan bands encompassed with ruder foes. Never human phalanx bore a steadier front than did Fannin's men around Goliad.

The Georgia battalion that had come organized to do battle for Texas, commanded by the brave and intrepid Ward, went to the altar of death together with Fannin and his men, and on that altar fed by human sacrifice was kindled into a glowing heat the freedom and independence of Texas, for without an Alamo and a Goliad there never would have been a San Jacinto.

There is no reason whatever for believing that Fannin and his followers would have laid down their arms to the foe if that foe had been fighting under no quarter. They were not men to yield themselves up like sheep for the slaughter. The phrase "capitulado" used by General Filisola in alluding to Urrea's report of their capture, shows his belief that the stipulations had preceded their surrender.

All the volunteers who escaped from the butchery made the same statements as to the stipulations.

In speaking of Urrea's course in these barbarous crimes, General Filisola said: "For every one of these skirmishes at San Patricio, Refugio and Encinal del Perdido Urrea deserved a court martial and condign punishment, for having assassinated a number of brave soldiers, as he might have obtained the same results without this sacrifice."

CHAPTER V.

Houston's Retreat Across the Colorado—March of Santa Anna's Army to Harrisburg—The Scout of Houston Capturing the Courier of Filisola to Santa Anna—Houston's Information Led Him to Determine a Battle—Account of the March of the Mexican Army—Houston's Diplomacy—Forces Meet— Preparatory for Battle—The Battle on Plains of San Jacinto—Courier to Refugees—Santa Anna's Capture and Results.

When General Houston heard of the fall of the Alamo and the fate of Travis and the whole garrison in the fort, he ordered all his forces from Gonzales to fall back across the Colorado river, carrying with them everything that was transportable. Many families in the country were left exposed to the ravages of the enemy. Couriers were sent in all directions to warn the settlers to protect themselves and property from the ruthless invaders. Everything at the homes was hastily prepared for transportation. Women, children, old men and slaves were all put in the advance of Houston's retreat. The scene was a wild and weird one; homes devastated and abandoned, and often burned; the sad faces of the fleeing refugees depicted despair.

The followers of Houston and the bearers of Texas' constitutional banner were in doubt of keeping in check the march of Santa Anna's victorious legions, whose leader was flushed with the victories at the Alamo and over Fannin and Colonel Grant at Goliad, did not believe that further resistance would be offered to his march, and that the war was virtually at an end, and began to apportion his forces to different parts for taking possession of Texas.

OUR MEXICAN CITIZENS

"On the 11th of March he caused Generals Sesma and Woll to move in order to occupy San Filipe de Austin, with instructions to continue on to Harrisburg and Anahuac, with the Battalions of Aldama, Matamoras and Toluca, fifty dragoons from the regiment of Dolores, two six-pounders and rations for eight days, this section forming an entire force of 725 men. He ordered, on the same dav, Colonel Juan Morales to march for Goliad with the Battalions of San Luis and Ximines, one twelve pounder, one eight-pounder, one mortar and rations for a month. Advices from General Sesma announced the disposition of the enemy to defend the pass of the river Colorado with 1200 men, and information was received from Colonel Urrea of his departure from San Patricio to Goliad, which it was said the Texans had fortified with the intention to resist with 500 infantry and fourteen pieces of artillery of various calibre.

"In consequence of this intelligence General Santa Anna ordered General Tolso to reinforce Sesma with the Battalion of Guerrero, the first battalion of regular militia of Mexico, and forty dragoons of Tampico, and he sent Colonel Cayetano Montayo to reinforce Urrea with the regular militia from Tres Villas and Gueretaro, and a twelve pounder, all these troops carrying rations for a month."

Santa Anna's hopes were heightened in these movements when he learned of the capitulation of Fannin with all his force of men and munitions of war to General Urrea on the road to Victoria from Goliad.

On the 24th of March General Gaona was ordered to Nacogdoches with the battalion of Morelos and militia of Guanajuato, two four pounders and twenty frontier dragoons, fifty convicts and forty days' rations. The strength for this division was 725 men.

Fully believing the contest was at an end, made these preparations for the permanent occupation of Texas, and believing that his presence was no longer needed in the country, was

preparing to return to the City of Mexico and resigning the command to General Filisola.

"With this understanding he ordered General Urrea, on the 25th of March, to scour all points on the coast from Guadalupe, Victoria to Galveston, with the knowledge that his left wing was to be covered by the division of General Sesma; and that, under his most strict responsibility, he should fulfill the orders of the government, shooting all the prisoners; and as regards those lately made (Fannin and his men), that he should order the commandant at Goliad to execute them, the same instructions being given to Gaona and Sesma with respect to all found with arms in their hands, and to force those who had not taken up arms to leave the country."*

Santa Anna had ordered a large amount of his cavalry to get in readiness to leave Texas on the 1st of April for San Luis Potosi.

Filisola addressed remonstrances to Santa Anna, through the latter's confidential aide-de-camp, Colonel Almonte, and some statements made to him by Sesma, who was operating on the right bank of the Colorado, induced him to relinquish his plans of departure and sending part of his cavalry and infantry to Mexico.

"Countermanding his instructions to Gaona, he ordered that general on the 25th of March, after passing the Colorado at the town of Bastrop, to move towards San Filipe de Austin. Directing Urrea to pass the Colorado at Matagorda and advance to Brazoria, he decided on concluding in person the remaining operations."

"On the 29th of March the battalion of Zapadores and that of Guadalajara, under Colonel Amat, marched from San Antonio de Bexar in the direction of Gonzales, with two eight-pounders, two four pounders, a howitzer and rations for a month. Generals Santa Anna and Filisola, with the staff, followed on the 31st."

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* Representacion de General Filisola, pp. 10-11.

General Houston had martialed his small army of brave but determined men, not numbering over 1300 men, at Beason's Ferry on the Colorado, where he had halted to enable the non-combatant refugees to cross and get well under way to the Brazos. When this was accomplished his scouts brought the news that the Mexican forces were moving in two directions against him. He knew to hazard a fight on the banks of the Colorado would imperil his fate, like Fannin, and leave all Texas to the mercy of the inflated and furious foe. On the 27th he ordered a retreat to San Filipe and sheltered himself by guarding the crossings on the Brazos. Leaving a part of his force at San Filipe, he forwarded another detachment to Fort Bend, about half way between Columbia and San Filipe, while he moved with his main body to Groce's Ferry, which was the best and easiest crossing on the Brazos, and one which the Mexican army would most likely attempt a crossing. He secured a small steamboat, the Yellowstone, lying at this point, by which he was enabled to move to any part of the river where the enemy might appear. On the 29th of March some scouts under Captain Baker, who commanded at San Filipe, mistook a bunch of cattle for the Mexican cavalry within a few miles of the town, which struck consternation to the inhabitants; who, after removing what property they could, fired the town and destroyed large amounts of goods and valuable property, which was an unnecessary destruction of private property.

Generals Santa Anna and Sesma arrived at San Filipe from Gonzales on April 7th.

General Woll was left with a guard of cavalry to escort the baggage, ammunition and artillery, under Filisola, from the Colorado river.

The Brazos being swollen, retarded the movements of the Mexican forces, and the opposition of Captain Baker at San Filipe prevented Santa Anna from crossing the river there.

On the 9th of April he selected his choice troops and proceeded down the Brazos to select a suitable crossing. On the 11th he arrived at the Old Fort and sent orders to Sesma and Filisola to join him there. On the 13th of April Sesma joined forces with Santa Anna at the Old Fort by order. Not waiting for further reinforcements, Santa Anna crossed the Brazos and marched on to Harrisburg, which place he reached on the afternoon of the 16th. General Almonte, the aide-de-camp of Santa Anna gives in his diary a full account of the march, and a disposition of the troops, and the record is given here:

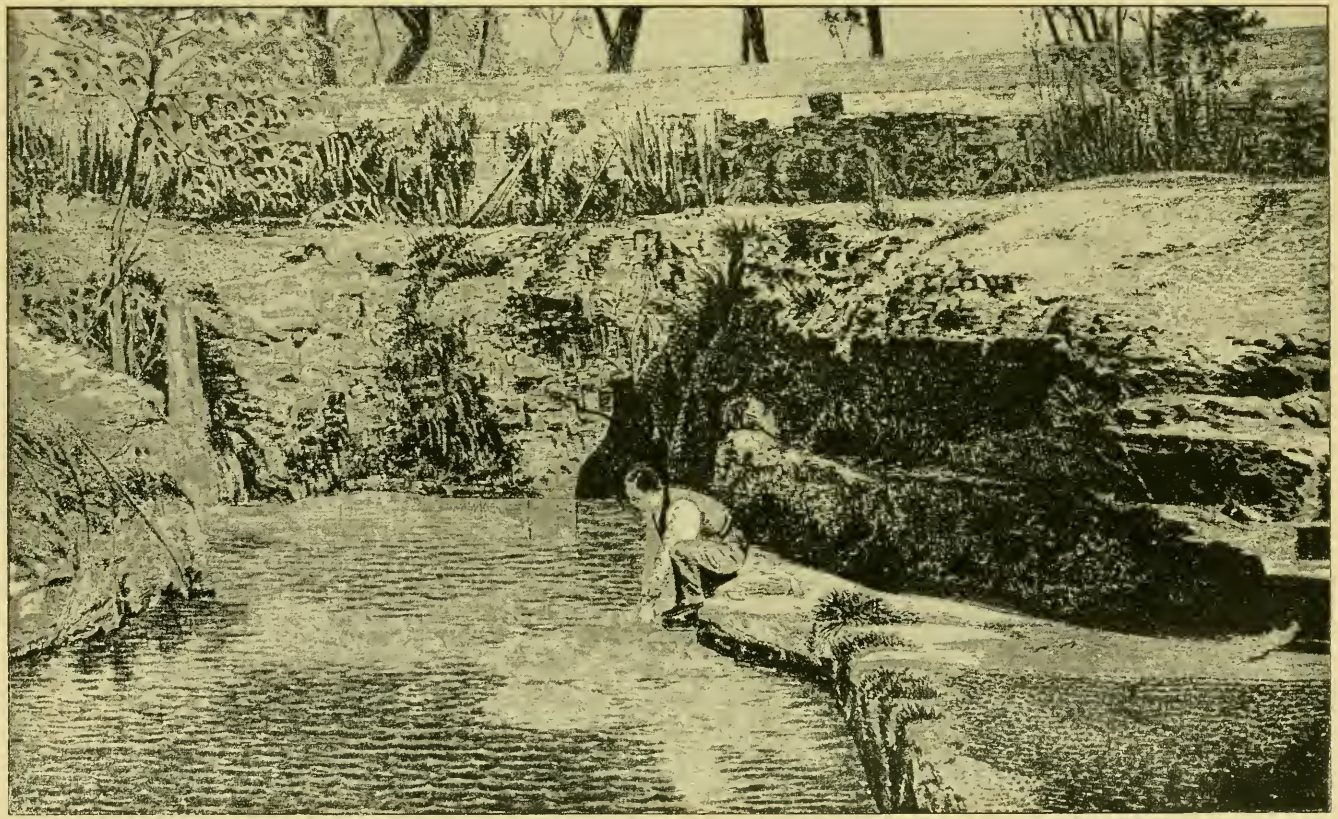
"Saturday 9th, at 5 a. m., we left San Filipe with the choice companies of Guerreros, Matamoras, Mexico and Toluca, and fifty cavalry of the regiment of Tampico and Dolores. At half-past twelve we arrived at the farm of Colls, and another mile beyond, in all six and a half leagues. Three Americans were seen, who took the road to Marion, or Orojimbo (Old Fort) and leading to Thompson's Ferry.

We found at the farm a family from La Baca, who came by the way of the Brazos. Various articles were also found. * * *

Saturday, 10th, we remained at Coll's farm, waiting for our scouts. The farm is on the left bank of the river San Bernardo. At a house seven leagues from the farm, on the road leading to the Colorado, there were 500 fanegas of corn and twenty barrels of sugar. In the afternoon the scouts returned and confirmed the accounts we had received of the position of the enemy.

At a quarter before four o'clock, p. m., we took up our march for Marion, or Old Fort, on the road from Brazoria. At half past five in the morning we made a short halt at the farm of the Widow Powell, or rather at a stream called Guajolota; from thence leaving the road from Brazoria on our right, we took the left, following the wagon tracks to Marion.

We marched until half past nine at night, and made another short halt. Night dark. At two in the morning we commenced



SAN PEDRO SPRINGS. MAIN SPRING.

the march on foot, from the President down to the soldier, leaving the baggage and cavalry, for the purpose of surprising the enemy who defended the crossing place, before daylight. We did not succeed, as we found the distance double what we supposed it to be. Day broke upon us at a quarter of a league from the ferry and frustrated our plan. We then placed the men in ambush. The stream of Guajolota is seven and a half leagues from Marion; road level with some miry places.

Monday, 11th. Still in ambush. A negro passed at a short distance and was taken. He conducted us to the place he had crossed at, and having obtained a canoe, we crossed without being perceived, a little below the principal crossing place.

In the meantime the cavalry arrived at Marion and took possession of the houses. The enemy retired on the other side and kept up a fire for a long time, until the Cazadores under command of Bringas crossed at the lower ford and, ascending the river, were about to take them in the rear, when they abandoned Marion and we remained in possession of the ferry, one canoe and a flat boat.

A courier was dispatched to General Sesma, with orders that he should come up with the whole division. The Cazadores slept on the other side of the river. Rain during the night.

Tuesday, 12th. Day clear and fine. We were occupied in procuring the canoes and going up in the flat boats to Thompson's ferry. A Mexican and a Prussian came in. The Mexican is the son of Delgado. In the afternoon the boat was injured. A courier came in from Guadalupe and from General Sesma. Wrote to Urrea at Matagorda.

Wednesday, 13th. The boat was repaired. The division of General Sesma arrived. Many articles were found. General Urrea and F. F. Fernandez were written to. Dispatches arrived from Urrea and Filisola.

Thursday, 14th. We crossed the river early with our beds only and provisions for the road. At three in the afternoon we started from Thompson's ferry.

"Friday, 15th. At Harrisburg (in pencil).

"Saturday, 16th. At Lynchburg (in pencil)."

From that time on to the 20th, Santa Anna was evidently very much engaged in finding out the whereabouts of the enemy and devising some plans to entrap him, as his aide-de-camp was in the saddle the whole time, and a strong reconnoitering party kept on each flank of the division. Houston was watching his wily adversary at every point.

The small force under Houston had a trying campaign. Houston sent admonitions to the settlements, warning them of the impending danger and threats to carry the war through the settlements if they did not rally to his aid. But in vain. Self-preservation seemed to be the ruling spirit among many of the colonists. Their bravest had joined Houston for weal or woe, and many had fallen with Fannin and Travis. The ordeal was a trying one, the crisis great, for the leader of the Texas forces to defend the country against such overwhelming odds under the victorious march of Santa Anna.

Houston then had no idea of forcing a fight on the plains of Texas, west of the Trinity, for he ordered some volunteers from the United States marching to join him to halt and fortify on the Trinity, and ordered all the non-combatants fleeing from their more western homes to stay well in advance of his line of retreat on the way to the Sabine.

General Houston diverged from his line of march eastward, and diverged southward in the direction of Harrisburg, near which place he reached on the 18th of April.

The most faithful and daring scout Houston had in his train was Erastus Smith, commonly called Deaf Smith (from some imperfection in his hearing), whose courage and daring had rendered most important service to the colonists. On the

march to Harrisburg Deaf Smith captured a Mexican courier carrying dispatches from Filisola to Santa Anna, showing the enemy's position, plans and movements, which information was very important to General Houston, and who acted promptly after receiving such advices. On the morning of the 19th he moved his troops down the right bank of the Buffalo bayou to within half a mile of its junction with the San Jacinto river; and took up a position in the spreading live oaks and timber that lined the bayou. In front of him lay the beautiful landscape of a Texas prairie, dotted with mots of timber. Here Houston was determined to fight Santa Anna before his reinforcements could come up, believing his time for action had arrived. He wrote the following note, suggestive of his plans, to Colonel H. Raguet, at Nacogdoches:

Camp at Harrisburg,
19th April, 1836.

"This morning we are in preparation to meet Santa Anna. It is the only chance of saving Texas. From time to time I have looked for reinforcements in vain. The convention adjourning to Harrisburg struck panic throughout the country. Texas could have started at least 4,000 men; we have only about 700 to march with, besides the camp guard. We go to conquer. It is wisdom growing out of necessity to meet and fight the enemy now. Every consideration enforces it. No previous occasion would justify it. The troops are in fine spirits, and now is the time for action. Adjutant General Wharton, Inspector General Hockley, Aide-de-camp Horton, Aides-de-camp W. H. Patton and Collinsworth, Volunteer Aids Perry and Perry, Major Cook, assistant inspector general, will be with me. We shall use our best efforts to fight the enemy to such advantage as will insure victory, though the odds are greatly against us. I leave the result in the hands of a wise God, and rely upon his providence. My country will do justice to those

who serve her. The rights for which we fight will be secured, and Texas free.

"SAM HOUSTON,
"Commander-in-Chief,

"Colonel Rusk is in the field.

"HOUSTON."

Santa Anna, with his forces, marched up from the southwest, and about 10 o'clock on the morning of the 20th, confronted the small Texan army, and within an hour sent a charge from a field piece whizzing through the ranks of Houston's sturdy followers, who answered the salute from two small six-pounders, the only cannon they had, which were the gift of the patriotic citizens of Cincinnati, Ohio, to the cause of Texas independence.

The details of the battle on the 21st of April are so fully set forth by General Houston in his official report to the President of the Republic of Texas, that we give it in extenso here.

"To His Excellency, D. G. Burnet, President of the Republic of Texas:

"Headquarters of the Army,
"San Jacinto, April 25th, 1836.

"Sir—I regret extremely that my position since the battle of the 21st has been such as to prevent my rendering you my official report of the same previous to this time.

"I have the honor to inform you that on the evening of the 18th inst., after a forced march of fifty-five miles, which was effected in two days and half, the army arrived opposite Harrisburg. That evening a courier of the enemy was taken from whom I learned that General Santa Anna, with one division of his choice troops, had marched in the direction of Lynch's ferry, on the San Jacinto, burning Harrisburg as he passed down. The army was ordered to be in readiness to march early on the next morning. The main body effected a crossing over Buffalo bayou, below Harrisburg, on the morning of the 19th, having

CITY HALL

left the baggage, the sick and a sufficient camp guard in the rear. We continued to march throughout the night, making but one halt in the prairie for a short time, and without refreshment. At daylight we resumed the line of march, and in a short distance our scouts encountered those of the enemy. And we received information that General Santa Anna was at New Washington, and would that day take up the line of march for Anahuac, crossing at Lynch's ferry.

"The Texan army halted within half a mile of the ferry in some timber, and were engaged in slaughtering beeves, when the army of Santa Anna was discovered to be approaching in battle array, having been encamped at Clopper's Point, eight miles below. Disposition was immediately made of our forces, and preparations for his reception.

"He took up a position with his infantry and artillery in the center, occupying an island of timber, his cavalry covering the left flank. The artillery, consisting of one double, fortified, medium, brass twelve-pounder, then opened on our encampment. The infantry, in column, advanced with the design of charging our lines, but were repulsed by a discharge of grape and canister from our artillery, consisting of two six-pounders.

"The enemy had occupied a piece of timber within rifle shot of the left wing of our army, from which an occasional interchange of small arms took place between the troops, until the enemy withdrew to a position on the north bank of the San Jacinto, about three-quarters of a mile from our encampment, and commenced fortification. A short time before sunset our mounted men, about eighty-five in number, under the special command of Colonel Sherman, marched out for the purpose of reconnoitering the enemy. Whilst advancing they received a volley from the left of the enemy's infantry, and after a sharp encounter with their cavalry, in which ours acted extremely well, and performed some feats of daring chivalry, they retired in good order, having had two men severely wounded and several horses

killed. In the meantime the infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Millard, and Colonel Burleson's regiment, with the artillery, had marched out for the purpose of covering the retreat of the cavalry, if necessary.

"All then fell back in good order to our encampment about sunset, and remained without any ostensible action until the 21st, at half past three o'clock, taking the first refreshment which they had enjoyed for two days.

"The enemy, in the meantime, extended the right flank of their infantry so as to occupy the extreme point of a skirt of timber on the bank of the San Jacinto, and secured their left by a fortification about five feet high, constructed of packs and baggage, leaving an opening in the center of the breastworks in which their artillery was placed, their cavalry upon their left wing.

"About nine o'clock in the morning of the 21st the enemy were reinforced by 500 choice troops under the command of General Cos, increasing their effective force to upwards of 1,500 men, whilst our aggregate force for the field numbered 783 men. At half past three o'clock in the evening I ordered the officers of the Texas army to parade their respective commands, having in the meantime ordered the bridge on the only road communicating with the Brazos, distant eight miles from our encampment, to be destroyed, thus cutting off all possibility of escape. Our troops paraded with alacrity and spirit, and were anxious for the contest. Their conscious disparity in numbers seemed only to increase their enthusiasm and confidence, and heightened their anxiety for the conflict.

"Our situation afforded me an opportunity of making the arrangements preparatory to the attack without exposing our designs to the enemy.

"The first regiment, commanded by Colonel Burleson, was assigned the center. The Second regiment, under the command of Colonel Sherman, formed the left wing of the army.

SCENE NEAR MILL BRIDGE, SAN ANTONIO.

The artillery, under the special command of Colonel George W. Hockley, Inspector General, was placed on the right of the First regiment, and four companies of infantry under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Millard, sustained the artillery upon the right.

"Our cavalry, sixty one in number, commanded by Colonel Mirabeau B. Lamar (whose gallant and daring conduct on the previous day had attracted the admiration of his comrades, and called him to that station), placed on our extreme right, completed our line. Our cavalry was first to dispatch to the front of the enemy's left, for the purpose of attracting their notice, whilst an extensive island of timber afforded us an opportunity of concentrating our forces and displaying from that point, agreeably to the previous design of the troops.

"Every evolution was performed with alacrity, the whole advancing rapidly in line and through an open prairie, without any protection whatever for our men. The artillery advanced and took station within two hundred yards of the enemy's breastwork, and commenced an effective fire with grape and canister. Colonel Sherman, with his regiment, having commenced the action upon our left wing, the whole line, at the center and on the right, advancing in double-quick time, raised the war cry, 'Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!' received the enemy's fire and advanced within point blank shot before a piece was discharged from our lines. Our line advanced without a halt until they were in possession of the woodland and the enemy's breastwork; the right wing of Burleson's and the left wing of Millard's taking possession of the breastwork, our artillery having gallantly charged up within 70 yards of the enemy's cannon, when it was taken by our troops. The conflict lasted about eighteen minutes from the time of close action until we were in possession of the enemy's encampment, taking one piece of cannon (loaded), four stand of colors, all their camp equipage, stores and baggage. Our cavalry had

charged and routed that of the enemy upon the right, and given pursuit to the fugitives, which did not cease until they arrived at the bridge which I have mentioned, Captain Karnes, always among the foremost in danger, commanding the pursuers.

"The conflict in the breastworks lasted but a few moments, many of the troops encountered hand to hand conflicts, and not having the advantage of bayonets on our side, our riflemen used their pieces as war clubs, breaking many of them off at the breech. The rout commenced at half past four, and the pursuit by the main army continued until twilight.

"A guard was then left in charge of the enemy's encampment, and our army returned with their dead and wounded. In the battle, our loss was two killed and twenty-three wounded, six of them mortally. The enemy's loss was 630 killed, among whom was one general officer, four colonels, two lieutenant colonels, five captains, twelve lieutenants. Wounded, 208; of which were five colonels, three lieutenant colonels, two second lieutenant colonels, seven captains, one cadet. Prisoners, 730; President-General Santa Anna, General Cos, four colonels, aides to General Santa Anna, and the colonel of the Guerrero battalion, are included in the number. General Santa Anna was not taken until the 22d, and General Cos yesterday, very few having escaped. About 600 muskets, 300 sabres and 200 pistols have been collected since the action. Several hundred mules and horses were taken, and nearly $12,000 in specie.

"For several days previous to the action, our troops were engaged in forced marches, exposed to excessive rains, and the additional inconvenience of extremely bad roads, badly supplied with rations and clothing, yet, amid every difficulty they bore up with cheerfulness and fortitude, and performed their marches with spirit and alacrity. There was no murmuring. Previous to and during the action, my staff evinced every disposition to be useful, and were actively engaged in their duties.

"In the conflict I am assured that they demeaned themselves in such a manner as proved them worthy members of the Army of San Jacinto. Colonel T. J. Rusk, Secretary of War, was on the field. For weeks his services had been highly beneficial to the army. In the battle, he was on the left wing, where Colonel Sherman's command first encountered and drove in the enemy. He bore himself gallantly and continued his efforts and activity, remaining with the pursuers until resistance ceased.

"I have the honor of transmitting herewith a list of the officers and men who were engaged in the action, which I respectfully request may be published as an act of justice to the individuals. For the commanding general to attempt discrimination as to the conduct of those commanded in the action, or those who were commanded, would be impossible.

"Our success in the action is conclusive proof of their daring intrepidity and courage; every officer and man proved himself worthy of the cause in which he battled, while the triumph received a lustre from the humanity which characterized their conduct after victory, and richly entitles them to the admiration and gratitude of their general.

"Nor should we withhold the tribute of our grateful thanks from that Being who rules the destinies of nations, and has in the time of greatest need enabled us to arrest a powerful invader whilst devastating our country. I have the honor to be, with high consideration, Your Obedient Servant,

"SAM HOUSTON,

"Commander-in-Chief."

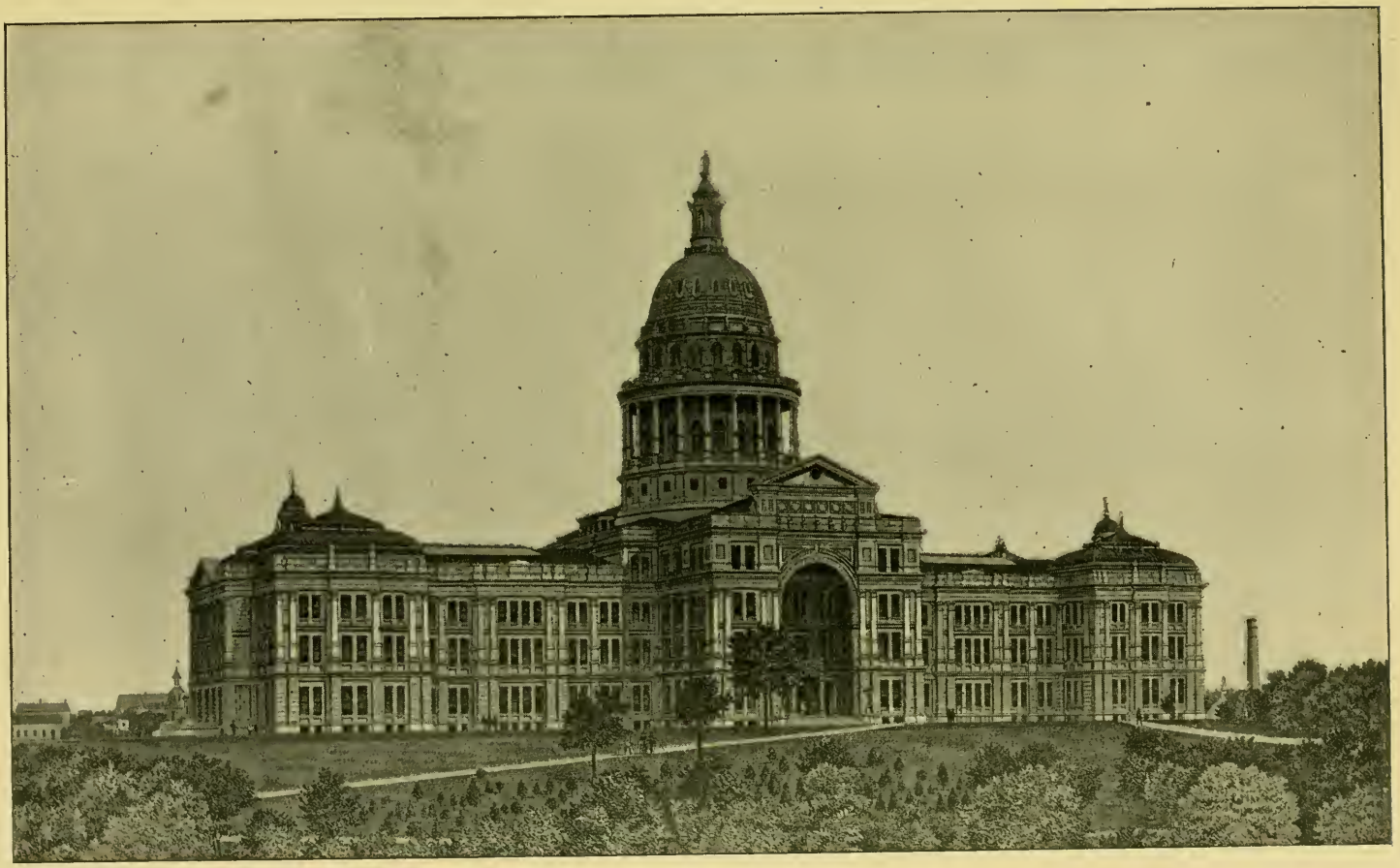
General Houston had previously informed the fleeing refugees, composed of long, moving ox-trains, horses, cattle, servants, children, old women and men, that he would send a messenger on swift horse at the close of the battle, and if fatal to the Texans, as it had been at the Alamo and Goliad, and all the defenders perish, then the refugees could push on to the Sa-

bine and take refuge under the protecting arm of the United States troops, who were then commanded by Major General Gaines, of the United States army, on the American frontier.

Some twenty-five miles in the east of San Jacinto this army of poor unfortunates was encamped. The father was bowed down in grief, expecting to hear the sad news of his boy's annihilation; the mother moaning over the expectant loss of her son; the wife bathed in tears, weeping for him whose sun had perhaps gone down in the conflict; the wail of the children in their lament at being consigned to orphanage by the hand of a savage invader, made the scene piteous indeed. No hand was nigh to save but Him on high, who rules the tide and stays the hand of destruction.

Four o'clock in the afternoon of that beautiful April day the guns had ceased to fire; the din of battle was over. Just half an hour at the Alamo in the last charge, and all was lost. A bad omen now over which to ponder. With hearts all beating and heads bowed down in prayer for deliverance, the sun goes low in the horizon and reflects in beautiful rays over the broad prairies stretching to the west. In the distance a horseman is seen, coming as fast as the jaded horse could speed along. Alas, for hope! All is gone. The groans deepen, despair sets in, grief is lamentable. The wagons are hitched and the train ready to move. The servants are all at their posts. The tired man and jaded horse come closer. Only one hundred paces, and spurs are renewed to hasten the gallop. A wild yell goes up, and the hat waving over the rider's head speaks the glad tidings of victory. While the poor horse falls down to rest, the cavalier is embraced by old and young, maiden and mother, while he recounts the charge and victory, the utter rout and annihilation of the Dictator's army, the freedom of Texas, the birth of a new Republic, whose baptismal fires hath made her immortal.

The picture was soon changed, the teams were loosened for the range, the loads unpacked; the servants rejoicing with their



TEXAS STATE CAPITOL, AUSTIN.

masters; the repast for the evening meal was enlarged. Joy was now unconfined. The old negro whose hair was frosted by many winters, seated himself on a camp stool under a spreading live oak tree, "the white folks' house," and with the fiddle and the bow made the welkin ring; while those who could shuffle the old Virgina reel kept mongrel time to the beautiful tune of "Old Rosin the Bow," and the faithful pony took his rest hard by and the warrior slept, dreaming of happy home, wife and children.

Like Miriam of old, when she led the dances of the Children of Israel after they had passed the Red Sea in their flight from bondage, towards the happy shores of Canaan; and like the patriots of America giving way to merriment of the dance when Lord Cornwallis surrendered his sword to Washington at Yorktown; so here the scene was renewed of people cheering their deliverance from tyranny in the song and dance.

The triumph of the Texans was so sudden and swift that it was quite a surprise to themselves. Houston had burnt the bridge, and all hope of escape was gone. It was a battle to the death, and well did the Texans raise the war cry of, "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" for on the plains of San Jacinto they were determined to avenge their brothers' blood. Houston would have fought the enemy sooner, but realizing his great superior force and armament, he could not do so until that force was divided; and not till the capture of the courier bearing messages to Santa Anna was Houston apprised of the division of the enemy's forces. When this was ascertained, no time was lost in meeting the foe.

Generals Santa Anna and Cos were taken captive on the day after the battle. Santa Anna made his flight dressed in a common garb of a private soldier, hid in the grass on Buffalo bayou, and was not known to his captors till he was taken to General Houston's headquarters, where, amid much agitation,

fear and trembling, he announced himself as President of the Mexican Republic, and Commander-in-Chief of the army.

Houston had been wounded in the ankle, and was slumbering upon a blanket at the foot of a live oak tree, with his saddle for a pillow, when Santa Anna approached and shook his hand cordially and pronounced his name. He requested some opium be given him, which he swallowed and was more composed.

He said to Houston: "You were born of no ordinary destiny. You have conquered the Napoleon of the West."

The two commanders entered into colloquy respecting the massacre of the garrisons at the Alamo and Goliad, which Santa Anna defended. Houston gave him the use of his bed and he retired for the night—but not to sleep. His conscience kept him awake, for he feared the vengeance of the outraged Texans. General Houston had to exert extraordinary influence over his men to save the life of his captor, whom he desired to use as an instrument in securing the absolute freedom of Texas and freeing the soil of Mexican troops, large bodies of which were in close proximity to the Texan army; and after due deliberation, the two commanders-in-chief agreed upon terms of capitulation, which are here given in full:

"Articles of an agreement made between His Excellency, the general-in-chief of the army of operations, President of the Mexican Republic, Don Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, for one party; and His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Texas, Mr. David G. Burnet, for the other party:

Article 1. General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna agrees not to take up arms, nor to influence their being taken up, against the people of Texas during the actual strife of independence.

Art. 2. Hostilities shall immediately cease, by sea and land, between the Mexican and Texan troops.

Art. 3. The Mexican troops shall evacuate the territory of Texas, passing to the other side of the Rio Grande del Norte.

Art. 4. The Mexican army, in its retreat, shall not make use of the property of any person without their consent and just indemnification, taking articles only necessary for their subsistence when the owners should not be present; and sending to the general of the Texas army or to the commissioners for the arrangement of such matters; advice of the value of the property consumed, the place where taken and the name of the owner, should it be known.

Art. 5. That all private property, including cattle, horses, negro slaves, or persons contracted, of whatsoever denomination, which may have been taken by a part of the Mexican army, or which should have taken refuge in said army from the commencement of the last invasion, shall be returned to the commander of the Texas forces, or to the persons that should be named by the Government of Texas, in order to receive it.

Art. 6. The troops of both belligerent armies shall not be placed in contact, and for this end the Texas general shall take care that between the two encampments a distance shall intervene of five leagues at least.

Art. 7. The Mexican army shall not delay any more in their march than is necessary to take off their hospitals, trains, etc., and pass the rivers, considering as an infraction of this agreement the delay which, without just motives, should be noted.

Art. 8. This agreement shall be forwarded by speedy express to Vincente Filisola, general of division, and to General T. J. Rusk, commander of the Army of Texas, that they may remain bound as far as appertains to them, and being mutually agreed, may arrange the speedy and due execution of the stipulations.

Art. 9. That all the Texan prisoners at this time in the power of the Mexican army, or in that of any of the authorities of the Government of Mexico, be immediately placed at liberty,

and passports given to them so that they may return to their homes. It being the duty of the Government of Texas also to place at liberty a corresponding number of Mexican prisoners, of the same rank and station, and to treat the remainder of said Mexican prisoners who may remain in the power of the Government of Texas with all due humanity, charging the Government of Mexico for the expenses caused in their behalf, when any extra convenience should be afforded them.

Art. 10. General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna shall be sent to Vera Cruz as soon as may be thought proper, and for its fulfillment and consequent effects the contracting parties sign it by duplicate in the port of Velasco, on the 14th of May, 1836.

ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA,
DAVID G. BURNET,
J. COLLINSWORTH, Secretary of State.
BAILEY HARDEMAN, Secretary of Treas.
P. W. GRAYSON, Attorney General.

This treaty was submitted to General Filisola on the 26th of May, and ratified by him. There was a secret treaty also signed on the 14th of May, by the same contracting parties, on amity and commerce: That the Texan territory should not extend beyond the Rio Grande; that the immediate embarkation of Santa Anna for Vera Cruz should be provided for, as "His prompt return being indispensable for the purpose of effecting his engagements."

Santa Anna's release was much delayed. Conflicting interests and feelings arose over his release. Many thought he ought to be tried by court martial and shot, as outraging every principle of civilized warfare. Among those of such belief was the formidable Lamar, who was chosen Secretary of War. He regarded Santa Anna more as an apprehended murderer than a prisoner of war. He reminded the government of the char-

acter and nobility of those they were called on to avenge. They were no mercenary soldiers. He knew many of them personally. He, Fannin and Ward were from the same state (Georgia). He said: "Never did the broad eye of day look upon a fouler murder; never were a better or a braver people sacrificed to a tyrant's ferocity. The most of them were youthful heroes."

"I have always thought, and still believe, that our sole reliance should be upon our swords, and not upon the faith of Santa Anna. If the armies now on the retreat shall dare a countermarch, there will not be in the next battle a Mexican left to tell the tale of their defeat; and if another expedition against us shall be gotten up in the fall or the spring, there will come into our country such a cavalcade of heroes as will make their chivalry skip. The very first army which turns its face to the east will awaken a war which will move onward and onward over the broad prairies of the west, knowing no termination until it reaches the walls of Mexico, where we shall plant the standard of the single star, and send forth our decrees in the voice of our artillery."

Finally Santa Anna was, on the 18th of December, 1836, sent to Washington, D. C., to confer with the Department of State, and General Jackson finally sent him by steamer to Vera Cruz, Mexico. When he was leaving Texas he issued the following address to the Texan army:

"My Friends—I have been a witness of your courage in the field of battle, and know you to be generous. Rely with confidence on my sincerity, and you shall never have cause to regret the kindness shown me. In returning to my native land, I beg you to receive the sincere thanks of your grateful friend. Farewell.

ANT. LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA."

The struggle for Texan independence ended with the battle of San Jacinto. Even had the Mexicans won that field, General Filisola was impressed that the Mexican army would have been very little improved. Marching across wild prairies, deep streams in to the enemy's country, fast being populated by volunteer forces from the old states, would soon have engulfed the army into annihilation.

We have brought the reader briefly over the troublesome times of Texas, and leave her on the plain of peace, where we hope she will always dwell among the nations of the earth. What she won by the victory of arms is hers. Her advancement in times of peace has been no less chivalrous than in war. And to follow the people of the Lone Star in her fields of peace, and legal and literary attainments, we must regale the reader and the student to the civil history of the state. But an area of more than two hundred and sixty-five thousand square miles, populated by over 3,000,000 of people, is no small advancement in sixty years.

FINIS.

SURRENDER OF SANTA ANNA—SEE PAGE 99.

SURRENDER OF SANTA ANNA

THE DAY AFTER THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO, APRIL 22, 1836.

Names of those present when Santa Anna was brought before the Commander-in-Chief of the Texans, General Sam. Houston, as shown in illustration:

1. General Sam. Houston.
2. General Santa Anna.
3. Thomas J. Rusk.
4. Mirabeau B. Lamar.
5. Chaddock.
6. Ben. McCulloch.
7. McMannus.
8. Col. Almonte.
9. Gen. Edward Burleson.
10. Col. Wharton.
11. Col. Sydney Sherman.
12. Joel W. Robison.
13. Walter P. Lane.
14. Sylvester.
15. Jesse Billingsly.
16. Tom. Green.
17. Gen. Alford.
18. Thomas Monroe Hardeman.
19. S. Bostic.
20. McFadden.
21. Aaron Burleson.
22. W. Anderson.
23. J. M. Hill.
24. Buntin.
25. Whitaker.
26. Clemens.
27. John M. Swisher.
28. "Deal" Smith.
29. Sterling Robertson.
30. Surgeon Gen. Ewing.
31. Geo. Nail.
32. Perry.
33. Hobson.
34. M. A. Bryan.

APPENDIX.

San Antonio is situated about the center of Bexar County, Texas, on lands granted by the King of Spain to the inhabitants thereof. It has now thirty-six square miles within the corporate limits. Has a population of 75,000, 12,000 registered voters and over 12,000 children enrolled in the public schools.

It has the finest system of artesan water supply in the world; the best regulated sewer and street railroad systems in America.

The picturesque San Pedro springs flow from the rocks near "Laurel Heights," about one mile from the main plaza. The spreading forest of native trees, with the meandering sweep of the sparkling waters, give to the eye the most beautiful scenery that can be sketched on landscape or painted in the human mind.

The beautiful San Antonio river comes gushing out of the rocks at the foot hills, three miles north of main plaza, and meanders amid spreading foliage of stately trees and bending bananas and tropical growth through the center of the city, a beautiful stream of clear water, on its way to the gulf. This stream, with San Pedro creek, furnishes water for the irrigating ditches that supply the fields and gardens below.

Nineteen iron bridges span this river on as many streets. The city has the finest public hall in the South and most substantial school buildings.

The Court house in Bexar County, situated on the main plaza, is a model of beauty and architectural display.

From the foot hills on the north, stretching to the gulf, one hundred and fifty miles, is the rich, undulating, alluvial lands, which make this section an earthly paradise for man, as the soil is rich and productive for all classes of agriculture, farm, garden and orchard. It is the stockman's retreat, for in this land is the nursery of all kinds of stock that live on the range without further feed. The climate is mild and temperate, always fanned by the gentle breezes that flow from the gulf stream.

The fame of San Antonio as a health resort for all classes of disease is proverbial and world wide. Her population is cosmopolitan in the extreme. More than twenty different nationalities are found on the streets.

Being one hundred and fifty miles from the Mexican border, it has the largest military post in the United States, Fort Sam Houston, which is a model of beauty and comfort. Thus surrounded and situated, San Antonio is bound to be the queen city of the Southwest, with her advantages fully developed.

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